Daily Report

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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Condemns Killing of PLO Officials

NC1601123091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat issued a statement today condemning the crime that claimed the lives of Palestinian Leaders Salah Khalaf [Abu-Iyad]; and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid [Abu-al-Hawl]; and Palestinian struggler Abu-Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari.

The statement described the act as cowardly and said it will not undermine the Palestinian struggle march. The statement emphasized that this ordeal will make the PLO stronger and more determined until the Palestinian people attain their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the land of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

Aircraft Shortage May Hamper Relief Operations

NC1501191191 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Geneva, Jan 15 (AFP)—U.N. disaster relief coordinator Mohammed Essaafi warned Tuesday that there were no longer sufficient aircraft to carry United Nations medical supplies to the Gulf under the terms of a plan adopted last week.

Relief organisations have indicated that their operations in the Gulf in the event of war could be hampered by the lack of air transport to the region and called on governments to place the aircraft of national airlines at their disposal.

"We're calling on U.N. members to lend us aircraft of their national carriers", Mr. Essaafi said.

"Transport is our biggest problem. We're counting on governments to help with national carriers", Douglas Stafford, deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, said.

Meanwhile Middle East governments were setting in place facilities to cope with the flood of casualties expected if hostilities break out in the Gulf.

Jordan has agreed to increase the capacity of its camps for displaced persons from 47,000 to 100,000 people, Mr. Essaafi said. Damascus had offered the free use of its ports and airports for the transit of aid destined for displaced persons.

Ankara, where a World Health Organisation team arrived Monday, said it was prepared for eventualities. WHO teams specialising in epidemiology, in sanitation and massive death situations arrived also in Syria, Jordan and Iran.

Total announced relief aid from the international community was 175 million dollars, of which Japan was said to have contributed 38 million dollars. Further donations were promised Tuesday to permit the application of a U.N. relief plan.

According to U.N. sources, more than a million foreign nationals remain in Iraq and Kuwait, including Egyptians, Sudanese, Palestinians, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis and Vietnamese. Cairo and Hanoi have expressed concern that Iraqi frontiers could be closed to their nationals.

Relief efforts to the Gulf region are being coordinated by the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO).

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Returns to Tunis; Debate on Assassin

NC1501185291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Amid world preoccupation with the developments of the Gulf crisis and the dangers of an explosion, treacherous hands dealt a blow in Tunis last night by assassinating Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, who was one of the symbols of the Palestinian resistance, a founder of the Fatah Movement, and the right hand man of the PLO chairman and whose name has been linked to the Palestinian revolution since its inception. The treacherous hands also assassinated Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], chief of the PLO security organ, and his assistant Fakhri al-'Umari, also known as Abu-Muhammad.

Our colleague Kamal Tarabay has been following developments in the assassination of the three:

[Begin Tarabay recording] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat immediately left Baghdad and returned to Tunis so that he could pay his last respects to the two comrades of the long and difficult struggle—Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, also known as Abu-al-Hawl—as well as the third comrade, Fakhri al-'Umari, also known as Abu-Muhammad. [passage omitted]

Informed quarters in Tunis have indicated that the perpetrator of the crime is a former member of the Abu-Nidal group which broke away from the Fatah Movement. Meanwhile, many Palestinian voices have been heard heard holding the Israeli intelligence organ, the Mosad, responsible for this crime. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Fatah Issues Statement

LD1501211591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Statement issued by the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, on 15 January; place not given]

[Text] Fatah announces to the Palestinian Arab nation the martyrdom of the leader, symbol and combatant, Salah Khalaf [Abu-Iyad], the leader, symbol and combatant Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid [Abu-al-Hawl] and the brother combatant Abu-Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari, who were martyred yesterday evening, Monday 14 January 1991, by

treacherous and mercinary bullets. An agent planted among the guards of brother Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, last night, at 2300, surprised the three martyrs by opening fire at them from a machinegun he was carrying, which led to the fall of the three beloved brothers: Aby-Iyad, Abu-al-Hawl and Fakhri al-'Umari, martyrs of the revolution and the homeland. It transpires from preliminary investigations that the criminal killer is linked to an agent and mercenary side. The Palestinian leadership will inform our people of the details of the cowardly crime immediately after the completion of the investigation.

Fatah, while announcing the death of its martyr leaders, whom our people had known at the forefront of its national struggle and in all its fields and arenas, confirms that this abominable crime will not go unpunished, and that the blood of our martyred leaders, symbols of our great combatant people, will remain a guide to the combatants in the continuous struggle, one squadron after another, until the achievement of the objectives of our nation and people, for the sake of which our great martyrs gave their life and blood.

Fatah, while announcing its grave loss, [words indistinct], renews the pledge to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation that the fall of its great martyrs will only make it more determined to continue the difficult road it has chosen for itself [words indistinct]

Egypt

Mubarak Asks Bush To Postpone Military Option

NC1501183891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Mustafa Bakri disptach from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has informed Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid that he has asked the United States to postpone the military option for several days after 15 January in order to give more time for the French-Algerian initiative to bear fruit.

President Mubarak confirmed Egypt's approval of the last-minute efforts being undertaken by Bendjedid to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. He noted in his urgent message to the Algerian president that Cairo hopes that the joint Algerian-French ideas will achieve a quick solution to the crisis. Mubarak regretted the failure of former efforts to contain this crisis and stressed that if Iraq accepts this initiative, Egypt would agree to undertake any Arab or international role to achieve full security and the necessary guarantees through its efforts to ensure that fighting does not break out in the region.

Well-informed Arab sources have told our radio that the Egyptian president stressed that the success of any Arab or international initiative is in the hands of the Iraqi leadership. He asked the Algerian president to give President Saddam a true picture of the dangers that would face Iraq should it insist on its current stand. Mubarak also expressed Egypt's readiness to mediate with the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia to bring about an Arab summit between Saddam and the Gulf states' leaders if the Iraqi president agrees to withdraw from Kuwait.

Mubarak expressed hope that the French-Algerian initiative will succeed in achieving what the other international and Arab initiatives have failed to achieve.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al Majid today received the French ambassador in Cairo, who conveyed to him the contents of the French initiative and the initial reaction to it. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak Addresses Nation

NC1501222591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2114 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Address to the nation by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo—live]

[Text] Brother citizens: I know that the sole topic of conversation in every household and among all fathers, mothers, and children is the few hours remaining between war and peace. In addition to the people of Egypt and those of Arab and Islamic countries, this is also the sole topic of conversation among all people around the world, who must be debating whether the next few hours will bring a devastating war one anywhere in the world wants, or a hopeful peace to spare lives and keep at bay all nightmares of blood and death.

The next few hours should determine the course of the most momentous event mankind has witnessed since World War II 50 years ago left millions of casualties and total devastation in a great many nations in its wake and then led all the peoples of the earth to rally around the idea of peace to spare humanity the trials and tribulations of wars.

With the sophistication attained by diabolical modern war machines and the attendant potentially enormous loss of life and property this entails, the situation today is far more serious for our Arab land and peoples. Accordingly, all too aware of their responsibilities, the world leaders are making a last-ditch effort to salvage peace. It is no secret that we have contributed and continue to contribute to this effort through our continuous contacts with all Arab, Islamic, and world fronts.

We have no argument and will never have one with the people of Iraq. Nor do we have any personal argument with President Saddam Husayn, the ruler of Iraq. Since the first hours of the crisis, a profound belief and a full conviction have been the basis of our position. This is because the people of Iraq are an integral part of the Arab nation and because the decision to protect the people of Iraq and all Arab people along with all the peoples whose nations have been involved in the crisis is the Iraqi president's alone. Such a decision would protect them from the horrors and terrible consequences of war.

All peoples of the world, without exception, want peace. This is the prayer of fathers and mothers and even of children. The entire international community as represented by the United Nations has declared its position and exerted endeavors, and all international efforts concurred on the need for the Iraqi president to respond and to make the decision that would restore reassurance to hearts. Since the Iraqi president spurned Egypt's repeated appeals and all the messages that we, with a clear conscience, sent him to protect the Iraqi people and the other peoples involved in the crisis; since the Iraqi president spurned the appeals of other world leaders who harbor no ill will toward him; and since he portrays the serious situation as one involving pan-Arab dignity and national pride, I will not hesitate for a single moment to extend this appeal to him although time is running out and the time of danger is approaching.

I appeal to him in the name of every father, mother, and child in Egypt to clear his mind of all temporary considerations of self and to clear his heart for a meeting with God with all the love and peace that the words of God Almighty call for. I appeal to him in the name of every family in fraternal Iraq which lost a martyr in the war with Iran, every family whose tears have not yet dried and which is still mourning. I appeal to him in the name of all peoples who saw that their national duty lay in sending their sons to fight in defense of the principle of peace. I appeal to him in these decisive hours that fill the

minds and hearts of millions of people with boundless anxiety and worry. I appeal to him to say a word of peace and to remember that his people's dignity and pride lie in establishing peace. I appeal to him, as a person who appealed to the countries of the world not to deprive the Iraqi children of milk, to safeguard Iraq's children from death and destruction. I appeal to him not to turn his eyes away from the sight of fathers and mothers everywhere who are praying to God for peace. I appeal to him to make the decision. One word will save all fates, one word after which the song of peace and security will be sung by everyone. One word, brothers and sisters, will make life triumph and foil the call for annihilation.

This one word would restore our life to the status quo ante of 2 August 1990. This would enable us all to forge ahead in building the present and would facilitate our efforts to build a happy and noble future which is man's right to see secured by his fellow human being.

I appeal to him not to allow the word of peace to stumble in his heart and conscience. The entire world cannot be wrong. Likewise, the leaders of the world—those of big and small countries alike—cannot all be harboring enmity toward you, the Iraqi people, or the Iraqi Army. We are only offering you sincere advice. I pray to the Almighty God to grant you tranquillity of heart and the grace of faith and to help us all reach agreement on peace and nothing but peace. Peace is the light which will guide all of us away from the gloom of darkness. May God answer our prayers.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Mubarak Sends Proposal to Saddam

NC1501130491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] I have learned from high-level Egyptian diplomatic sources in Cairo that President Husni Mubarak sent a fourth message yesterday evening to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn urging him to withdraw from Kuwait. Mubarak suggested to Saddam that subsequent steps regarding all Arab issues, chief among them the Palestinian question, will follow the withdrawal from Kuwait.

He made a proposal to the Iraqi president that includes several points. It includes, first: a meeting between the leaders of Arab countries and the PLO with the leaders of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the Western countries in any capital to be agreed upon. The conferees will lay down the practical and necessary bases for resolving all the region's problems.

Second: The outcome of this meeting will be crystallized in a binding resolution, to be issued by the Security Council, compelling Israel to resolve the security problems.

Third: In the event Israel rejects such a binding resolution, these countries will decide upon the sanctions as well as the necessary deterring measures against Israel.

In his message, the Egyptian president emphasized that he had held consultations over these proposals with a number of Western leaders, who agreed to them. He also emphasized that the initial reaction of the U.S. President had been positive and that the Arab pressure is bound to make all international powers agree to these proposals.

Al-Sharif Comments on Messages

NC1601083991 Cairo MENA in English 1750 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, Jan 15 (MENA)—Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif said today in reply to pressmen queries that President Husni Mubarak has sent six verbal messages and two written ones to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He added that the verbal messages were conveyed to the Iraqi president through his ambassador in Cairo, the first of which was on August 6, the second, third and fourth were on August 9, 19, and 23 respectively while the fifth and sixth were on November 22 and 26.

The minister of information said that the first written message was on November 30 and included 24 pages while the second was on December 29 and received by the Iraqi president on December 31. "The last written message was made up of 44 pages," he added.

The minister of information said that these messages are considered historical documents of extreme importance as they deal with all the stages of the crisis since its inception and tackled important facts with the aim of explaining these facts and attempting to correct the errors. These messages also included suggestions for finding out a formula to get out of the crisis and calls for a dialogue in an attempt to avoid the development of events to the worst, leading to aggravating the Arab stance and bringing about very grave consequences, the minister added.

Elaborating, al-Sharif said that the messages also clarified the Egyptian, Arab and international situations and corrected the Iraqi miscalculations in an attempt to explain the affairs and call for resorting to reason.

Concluding, the minister of information said that the replies of the Iraqi president to these messages were a series of false accusations, bad language, rude expressions, and a determination to occupy Kuwait and go ahead with the confrontation.

Cabinet Reviews Gulf Crisis Measures

NC1501171691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to discussed all the measures taken in the wake of prevailing circumstances in the Gulf region.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said this meeting was held in the critical hours leading up to the deadline set by the international community for the completion of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait to avert a military confrontation in accordance with the resolutions passed by the United Nations and the UN Security Council. The meeting was also held against the background of the failure of Arab and international efforts to reach a political solution, thanks to the Iraqi regime's insistence on rejecting all the initiatives that provided for a withdrawal from Kuwait, Safwat al-Sharif added.

The information minister went on to say: The Council discussed three major topics in this regard. The first topic concerns the developments of the Gulf crisis and the efforts and initiatives launched in the final hours to avert a destructive military confrontation. The second topic discussed concerns the preventative and defensive measures the state has taken to safeguard Egypt's pan-Arab security, secure the domestic front, and protect strategic facilities. As for the third topic, it concerns measures taken to facilitate the repatriation of Egyptians upon their return from countries neighboring Iraq, as well as from Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Syria. The Council also reviewed relief efforts to cater to the needs of these Egyptians.

The information minister said: Regarding developments in the Gulf crisis, the Council discussed a detailed report containing the initiatives launched, the appeals made, and the contacts held by Egypt since the beginning of the crisis, either directly with the Iraqi leadership, or through contacts and coordination with fraternal Arab states, the international community, and with the countries concerned with avoiding a military confrontation.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi submitted to the Council documents showing what the Egyptian political leadership has done in this regard. He also submitted to the Council the written messages President Mubarak sent to the Iraqi president, the latest being the message dated 31 December in which he expressed Egypt's concern over the Iraqi people, and attempted to enlighten Iraq on the seriousness of the situation and the expected destructive effects of a military confrontation. Sidqi also explained to the Council the initiatives contained in his messages—initiatives designed to facilitate Iraq's participation in efforts conducive to a political solution.

Furthermore, the Council discussed the Arab and international initiatives recently proposed following the failure of the Baker-Tariq 'Aziz meeting, the failure of the UN secretary general's mission, as well as the failure of the initiatives represented by the Syrian president's appeal, which was rejected by Iraq, and the attempts being made by Algeria and Yemen in this regard.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid submitted the text of principles accepted by Egypt, as announced by Yemen. He affirmed that what Egypt accepted during the visit of the Yemeni foreign minister to Egypt clearly provides for an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of the legitimate government, the deployment of an Arab force in accordance with an Arab League resolution in the area disputed by Iraq and Kuwait after the withdrawal of Iraqi troops, and the reinstatement of Kuwaiti legitimacy. Likewise, the initiative stipulates that the countries that have troops in the region pledge not to send any part of these troops to Kuwaiti territory after an Iraqi withdrawal, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid added.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid noted that the Yemeni initiative made no mention of the formation of an Arab good offices committee of certain Arab kings and presidents to work out the Iraq-Kuwait dispute. Nor did it state that a committee would come into being once the ideas suggested by Yemen prove acceptable to the disputing sides. The Council also reviewed the outcome of the 'Aziz-Baker talks and those held with the UN secretary general in which Iraq rejected any proposals and showed a complete lack of interest in a solution envisaging the avoidance of military confrontation.

On precautionary and defensive measures, the information minister said the Council discussed two reports—the first on the military position in the Gulf crisis, the second on Egypt's role in promoting pan-Arab security and its relationship to Egypt's national security. Hence the Egyptian deployment in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, where Egyptian soldiers are fulfilling a pan-Arab and national mission with honor, efficiency, and confidence.

The Council voiced its trust in and appreciation of the Egyptian Armed Forces deployed on Arab land for the sake of right and justice. The defense minister emphasized that although Egypt is outside the sphere of military confrontation and beyond the reach of Iraq's military capability and its strategic arms, all military preparations to defend Egypt's national security have been taken to face all eventualities.

On precautionary measures to safeguard strategic and public installations, the information minister said the Cabinet looked into a report detailing the plans devised by ministries, agencies, and services to guard against sabotage and secure all areas on the home front. The interior minister outlined his ministry's plan to protect government establishments. He pointed out the coordination with the Armed Forces and the governorates, the ministries, and other bodies in the area of civil defense and security to protect the country against infiltration attempts. He indicated that the plan to secure the national front against saboteurs was still in place.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif added that the Council also heard the health minister's report on a contingency plan for emergencies and rescue operations covering all the governorates. The Cabinet also reviewed a Supply Ministry plan, with the supply minister emphasizing that there are strategic reserves of all goods.

General: Israeli Intervention Would 'Spoil' Battle

NC1601101091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0841 GMT 16 Jan 91

[By MENA Military Editor 'Adil 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] Hafar al-Batin, 16 Jan (MENA)—A few hours after the expiration of the international deadline set by the UN Security Council for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, the Egyptian special forces stationed in Hafar al-Batin on the Saudi-Kuwaiti border carried out a military exercise as part of their plans and exercises to upgrade their efficiency and to maintain their combat preparedness.

Staff Major General Salah Halabi, commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia, held a meeting with senior aides to discuss the latest prospects in light of the international changes after the expiration of the international deadline.

In remarks to Egyptian military analysts in Hafar al-Batin, Maj. Gen. Halabi affirmed that if the military power of the multinational forces is used against Iraq in implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, Iraq will be surprised by the fact that it was entertaining a great illusion. This is because no force can be compared to these forces in terms of magnitude. He said this is what made President Husni Mubarak, based on his military expertise, endeavor to spare Iraq the afflictions of war through repeated appeals to President Saddam Husayn for peace.

Maj. Gen. Halabi explained that if battles break out, the Iraqi forces will not hold out for more than a few days. He said coordination among the multinational forces is continuing and will not be interrupted by any new developments requiring deployment to be coordinated in the same area.

Responding to a question on the possibility of a sudden war, the commander said: Indeed, there will be no strategic surprise because the entire international community authorizes the use of force. The question is when. However, he said, no military operation lacks some surprise in terms of timing, tactics, or the use of new weapons which add this new element of surprise.

On the Egyptian forces' preparations, Maj. Gen. Salah Halabi said they are proceeding in accordance with the training program, which is continuing normally. He noted that the state of emergency or the level of preparedness have not been upgraded.

On joint exercises with the multinational forces, the commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia said: We welcome training with any side. He said: We previously held exercises with U.S., French, and British forces, and our shock troops are now holding a joint exercise with the French forces.

The Egyptian commander praised the high efficiency of the Kuwaiti resistance forces, which have been restructured to take action in the next stage. This has been done to bring them up to a good level in terms of training, armament, preparation, and high morale. He affirmed that these forces are being trained to exercise their right to participate in liberating their country.

Responding to a final question on the possibility of Israel's intervention in the battle and whether that will change the theater of operations, Maj. Gen. Halabi said: Absolutely. If Israel intervenes, it will spoil the battle.

MENA Reports on Military Situation

NC1501220791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2034 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Hafar al-Batin, 15 Jan (MENA)—(?Informed) military sources here have asserted that there are no signs or indications of an imminent withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait before 0700 tomorrow, Wednesday, the expiry date of the Security Council resolution's deadline.

Staff Major General Salah Halabi, commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia, said the end of today, 15 January, does not mean that war will break out exactly at this time. This day, he added, is the day in which Iraq was allowed to pull out its forces from Kuwait and to avoid the use of international military force.

Maj. Gen. Halabi addressed a message to the Egyptian people in which he stressed that the Egyptian Armed Forces are keen on the protection and safety of their sons in the operations theater. He stressed that their primary mission is to boost the defensive capabilities of the Kingdon of Saudi Arabia.

He said the Egypotian forces personnel in Saudi Arabia are the object of the Egyptian people's confidence and that they will continue to represent the Armed Forces' honorable image.

MENA's military correspondent 'Adil 'Abd-al-'Aziz says the confrontation area of the military operations theater in Western Hafar al-batin witnessed a state of expectation, tension, and caution, prior to the expiry of the Security Council's deadline for the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait at 0700 tomorrow, Cairo time. He pointed out that the Egyptian forces and the multinational forces are deployed in this area.

A strong belief prevails at the combat front that prospects for a peaceful solution have ended completely and that the situation requires a miracle at a time when the possibilities of resorting to a military solution (?at any moment) have increased.

This is confirmed by the preparations, military concentrations, security arrangements, and procedures being witnessed in Hafar al-Batin which indicate beyond any doubt that the next few hours or days will be crucial in most likely ending this crisis militarily.

The city of Hafar al-Batin now looks quite different from a week ago. Warning sirens are announcing mock raids while the remaining civilians in the city rush to the shelters, wearing chemical warfare (?protective masks). [passage indistinct]

U.S. Military Said Using Old Cairo Airport

NC1501140591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (INA)—The Cairo paper AL-SHA'B has said that the Egyptian Government has agreed to devote Cairo's old airport to serving the needs of U.S. military aviation, which is participating in Gulf war preparations, and to transfer civilian aircraft to the new Cairo airport.

AL-SHA'B added that the old airport has recently been receiving more than 10 military aircraft per day, and that these were cargo planes loaded with weapons and military equipment, such as artillery pieces, ammunition, spare parts, and foodstuffs for the U.S. forces in the Gulf.

The paper pointed out that Egyptair, Nile Valley, and Zas national airline companies are extending their services to the American planes at Cairo airport.

The paper said these unprecedented measures are in exchange for a U.S. promise to help reduce the losses in the Egyptian aviation and tourism sectors resulting from the Gulf crisis.

Paper: Iraq Prevents Some Egyptians From Leaving

PM1601124991 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Jan 91 pp 1, 2

[Hanan al-Badri report: "Egyptians Prevented From Leaving Iraq To Compel Them To Volunteer"]

[Text] Cairo diplomatic sources have confirmed that the Iraqi authorities closed the al-Ruwayshid crossing point on the Iraqi-Jordanian border over the past three days and that Egyptians have been prevented from leaving Iraq before 15 January even though they have exit visas. The Iraqi authorities opened the crossing point for short periods to enable Asian nationals to cross into Jordan.

A source said that Iraq granted exit visas only to Egyptian workers in the Iraqi private sector but refused to do the same for workers in the Iraqi public sector. The Iraqi authorities also distributed [to Egyptians] two forms prepared by the Iraqi Intelligence Service. The first includes questions about dates and duration of service in the Egyptian Armed Forces, what corps, the names of military commanders, and names and dates of major training exercises in which the persons concerned had participated. The second is a form for joining the Iraqi Arab Islamic forces against the lackey, Zionist, and U.S. forces.

AL-WAFD has learned that an Arab state has warned Iraq against recruiting Egyptians working there. At midday yesterday Jordan announced the closure of its borders with Iraq to refugees coming from Iraq until the international aid for the refugees is received.

Reportage on Butrus Ghali Visit to France

WA1501201791

For reportage on the visit by Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to France, including reports on his talks with President Francois Mitterrand, please see the France section of the 14 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Paper Criticizes Saddam's Stand on Peace Efforts

NC1601065691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 16 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial, AL-AHRAM says: Once again, Iraq's Saddam erected a wall of rejection between himself and all initiatives. Saddam has demonstrated in all his actions that he follows one course: deliberate disregard and unjustified provocation. For example, he rejected a meeting with the United States and then accepted it. Then he sent a seven-hour speech to the meeting, but he did not budge from what his former declarations. In fact, during those hours, Saddam's foreign minister avoided mentioning Kuwait by name. This demonstrates a great ability to engage in maneuvers and useless debates.

Saddam has followed this course with all those who visited him, beginning with Waldheim and ending with Perez de Cuellar. The paper explains: Based on these intransigent and arrogant practices and including the ones since the beginning of the crisis, it has been confirmed that what motivates Saddam politically and psychologically is a depraved urge to gamble. This kind of gambler does not care about winning or losing but is motivated by the pleasure of gambling and besieging others, even if he has to use lies and deception. Such a gambler makes his rival think that he holds all of the winning cards, though he really does not hold any of them. Such a gambler's concept of reality forces him to believe that the other's calculations do not accurately assess his potential and intentions.

Soldiers Allegedly Held After Desertion Attempt

NC1501152791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 15 Jan (INA)—Informed sources have revealed to the Jordanian paper AL-AHALI that more than 30 officers and soldiers from the Egyptian paratroopers deployed in Saudi Arabia were arrested two weeks ago.

They said that these officers and soldiers were arrested during their attempt to desert and join the Iraqi forces. They added that Saudi security authorities confiscated their personal weapons immediately on their arrest. After being held

for one week, they were handed over to the commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia together with their personal weapons and were then returned to Egypt in preparation for a military court-martial.

Paper Says Dispatch of Troops Violates Constitution

NC1501141191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (INA)—The Cairo paper AL-SHA'B says Egypt's ruler Husni has committed a flagrant violation of the Egyptian Constitution by sending the Egyptian Armed Forces overseas to take part in a war outside its territories without obtaining the People's Assembly approval, in accordance with Article 150 of the Constitution.

In an article entitled "Dispatching the Troops to the Gulf Is a Violation of the Constitution" published today, writer Mahfuz 'Azzam says that Husni did not refer this matter to the Supreme Defense Council in accordance with Article 150 of the Constitution; neither did he refer it to the Supreme Defense Council, in accordance with Article 182 of the Constitution.

Paper Sees 'Hardest' Days Before 15 Jan

NC1101072591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 11 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peace or War," an editorial in the newspaper AL-AHRAM says: No one can precisely predict the outcome of the Gulf crisis. Can the catastrophe of war be avoided, or is confrontation inevitable? The paper says that the four days remaining before the UN Security Council deadline for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait will be among the hardest and longest days in 1991, for these will draw the line between war and peace.

The paper adds: The gravest mistake that the Iraqi regime can make is to imagine that international efforts to avoid the war mean that the world is ready to accept the status quo as a price for averting war. The international community is seeking the liberation of Kuwait. If that goal is achieved by peace, so much the better. However, if peaceful efforts fail, the choice of war will be the only one left for the international community.

'Barbaric' Assassination of PLO Leaders Denounced

NC1501115691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt denounces the barbaric and treacherous assassination of two leaders of the Palestinian resistance movement and one of their comrades in struggle. They dedicated their lives to the national and pan-Arab struggle for the sake of justice, right, and peace; made a considerable contribution to steering the Palestinian struggle march along the path of legitimacy, coexistence, and self-determination; and participated in shaping a new future in which the people could enjoy more security, stability, and safety.

While extending sincerest condolences to the fraternal Palestinian people, to the families of the deceased, Salah Khalaf, Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, and Fakhri al-'Umari, and to the PLO leadership, the Arab Republic of Egypt pray to God Almighty to inspire the people of the region to live in peace and security, to put an end to [illegible] violence, fear, and tension, and to guide them to use their resources and potential to the best of their interest and welfare.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Supports Gulf Peace Initiatives

Backs Yemeni Initiative

LD1501081991 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] [No dateline as received] A spokesman from the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation made a statement regarding the initiative announced by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to solve the Kuwaiti crisis.

The spokesman stressed that the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah supports the initiative of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih announced yesterday, Monday, 14 January 1991 vis-a-vis solving the Kuwaiti crisis peacefully.

The spokesman added that while the Great Jamahiriyah stresses its support for this peaceful initiative, which is based in essence on the initiative of the brother leader of the revolution announced on 1 September 1990 out of his awareness of the dangers facing the existence of the Arab nation, the Jamahiriyah would like to stress that its backing for this initiative emphasizes the need for an Arab solution to the Kuwaiti crisis and sparing the region the repercussions of war.

Supports French Initiative

LD1501192491 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the great al-Fatih revolution has sent a message to the president of the Security Council and to the UN secretary general in which he affirmed the concern of the Great Jamahiriyah for saving the area from the horrors of war, and its desire to work responsibly for establishing peace and to solve the Kuwaiti crisis peacefully. To achieve this, the brother leader announced the agreement of the Great Jamahiriyah to the initiative of the French president, despite the previously announced reservation of the Great Jamahiriyah concerning the convening of an international conference [on the Middle East], if the French initiative leads to safeguarding international peace and security.

Mauritania

Anti-U.S., Pro-Iraqi Rallies Continue 14 Jan

AB1401194591 London BBC World Service in English 1830 GMT 14 Jan 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] A little over 24 hours to go before the expiry of the UN deadline which will permit the use of force to get Iraq out of Kuwait, Mauritanians have been out on the streets again in support of the Iraqi president. Mauritania is only one of two African countries—the other is Sudan—which has actively supported Saddam Husayn and called for the withdrawal of allied forces from the Gulf. From Nouakchott, Sheba Kaye telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Thousands of demonstrators, chanting anti-American slogans brought traffic to a standstill in the center of Nouakchott today. It was the second day that the demonstrators are taking to the streets in support of Iraq and its leader, Saddam Husayn. They called for the multinational force to leave the Gulf. At one stage, the security forces intervened and fired hundreds of tear gas canisters in an attempt to disperse the demonstrators. The University of Nouakchott and other educational institutions are under heavy police guard.

Security around Western embassies and those of Gulf states has been stepped up. Troops have been patrolling the streets since yesterday when the demonstrations erupted for the first time. Some Americans have begun leaving the country. A source in the American Embassy told me that wives and children of some American diplomats have already left. He said so far no American citizen has been subjected to any form of harrassment, but, he added, no one knows what will happen in the event of war in the Gulf.

Mauritania is one of the countries cited by the U.S. State Department as being unsafe for Americans to visit. Although Mauritania has condemned the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, it, however, rejects the presence of the multinational force in the region. [end recording]

Internal Support for Iraq Reportedly Increasing

AB1501160291 Paris AFP in French 1434 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 15 Jan (AFP)—Sporadic demonstrations for peace in the Gulf Region continued yesterday and today in Nouakchott after the very massive demonstration on 13 January, according to observers here. The security forces have full control over all the demonstrations and prevent any excesses, notably in the district where embassies are located, observers also report.

These demonstrators, whose actual organizers are unknown, start from the capital's market, the university, or high schools and disperse very rapidly. Observers have noted that the demonstrations tend to be more and more "pro-Iraqi" and that Saddam Husayn's portraits now appear in the streets of Nouakchott. This was less remarkable on 13 January during the peace demonstration which brought together several thousand people for nearly four hours.

Morocco

King Hassan Prepares for Possible State of Siege

LD1601030991 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2221 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Speech to the nation by King Hassan II of Morocco—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear people, the least that can be said is that the circumstances in which I address you are historically painful and heavy to bear. I say historically, because I cannot recall in my generation, or in previous generations, that a war took place among Arab brothers. This war will not be of the known classical type. Rather, it will be a destructive and merciless war. Its waves, echoes and the thundering cannons shall reach the farthest corners of the universe. [passage omitted]

If there is to be war tomorrow or not, only God almighty knows. What we do know is that if there is no war, this is what we want, of course. Thus, we beseech God from the bottom of our hearts that there should be no war. [passage omitted]

Dear people, as I told you, we must follow events and affairs delicately, cautiously and with humility, because even our sons may die there. Our sons, my sons, and your brothers, the Moroccans. The waves of death may reach them. As I have told you, they will not be in the frontline, they are there in defensive lines. They are at a place called al-Safaniyah, far from the Kuwaiti-Saudi borders. [passage omitted] Therefore, we must think of them with humility. [passage omitted]

I know you, my dear people, very well. You are indeed very sensitive about your Arab and religious concerns. There is no doubt that you wish to express your feelings. First of all, you have the newspapers. You have the radio. For you who wish to express yourselves through a poem or a statement, radio and television are open. Those who wish to express as a group their denunciation of war among brothers in the Middle East should do so without bias to either side—we in Morocco would be aggravating the Arab split in our grief and bewailing. [passage omitted]

With regard to security, in accordance with the Constitution, we have drawn up a royal decree that we have not yet stamped with our seal. We hope that we will have no need to stamp it with the royal seal. With regard to security, we have decided that if there is the slightest hint of disorder, we will declare a state of siege, as the Constitution and the law empower us. Even if there were no constitution, we are responsible, as the commander of

the faithful in the authentuic and ancient Islamic constitution, which all the Muslims, Arabs and non-Arab, had inherited from the Prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, and the wise caliphs, for the protection of individuals and the community. [passage omitted]

This morning, I saw the political parties, and we agreed that every party that organizes a demonstration should do so in a different city. [passage omitted] Each party will be responsible for this by contacting the authorities. Its cadres should be directly responsible—of course the authorities are always responsible for security—but its cadres during this demonstration; when I say demonstration I do not mean a march in the street, no, I am talking about a gathering; are responsible for security, the safe entry and exit of the venue. They pledged to me their political and moral responsibility. [passage omitted] If someone wishes to use these gatherings as an opportunity to carry out disorders, or if he starts telling people by God, this is reprehensible, or God have mercy in this or that place, or let us stage a sit in at a mosque, etc., I tell you the sentences will be those of military courts in a state of siege. [passage omitted]

This being the situation, we must all beseech God Almighty to put out this fire, spare us this war, and make this speech of mine unnecessary. [passage omitted]

Government Condemns Assassination of Palestinians

LD1601040191 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has announced that his majesty's government strongly condemns the assassination of Salah Khalaf [Abu-Iyad], Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid [Abu-al-Hawl], and Abu Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari at the PLO headquarters in the Tunisian capital last night.

The time chosen by the perpetrators of this abominable crime, in which prominent officials from the Palestinian leadership perished, the diplomatic official added, was very carefully calculated to coincide with a time when the Arab world in particular, and the world at large, are entering a special and dangerous turning point, characterized by the intensification of efforts by those with good intentions to spare the world certain catastrophe and to try to take advantage of all possible opportunities to make peaceful means prevail.

Morocco also condemns the masterminds and perpetrators of this abominable operation who do not hesitate to pursue the style of physical liquidation and use it to silence the voice of the Palestinian people. The martyrdom of new Palestinian officials will only increase the valiant Palestinian people's determination to continue its just struggle to regain its uncontestable and legitimate national rights under the leadership of its sole and legitimate representative, the PLO.

This abominable act will only increase the support of just and peaceful countries for the Palestinian cause. Morocco for its part, king, government, and people, while asking God's mercy for the martyrs' pure souls, renews its total solidarity with the just cause of the brother Palestinian people and reaffirms its solid commitment to the continuation of steady efforts to solve the question of Palestine on the basis of the UN principles and resolutions.

Kuwait

Minister Demands 'Full' UN Implementation

NC1501151591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1405 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 15 Jan (WAKH)—Kuwait today declared its rejection of any peaceful settlement plan for the five-month-long crisis of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait if it falls short of the full implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the crisis.

This rejection was voiced by Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, Kuwaiti information minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, in response to reports about plans, initiatives, and ideas about the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. In a statement carried by KUNA [KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY], Dr. al-Ya'qub said that right from the start, the position of the Kuwaiti leadership, government, and people has been so clear and firm that there can be no doubt, ambiguity, or argument about it. This stance calls for the full implementation of the Security Council resolutions calling for the unconditional withdrawal of the invading Iraqi forces to their positions prior to the invasion, and for the restoration of the legitimate government.

Dr. al-Ya'qub stressed that Kuwait will not accept any concept, initiative, or plan that does not bring about a full implementation of the Security Council resolutions, because these represent the minimum of what can be accepted. This is in addition to Kuwait's right to demand compensation for all the damages the invasion has caused for the Kuwaiti territories and people, and for the restoration of conditions in Kuwait to their former state. This requires the retrieval of everything the Iraqi regime has seized from Kuwait during its invasion.

He added: On this occasion, we praise all the good will and sincere efforts by fraternal and friendly countries at all levels to restore justice and expel the aggressor from the Kuwaiti territories. He said that the Iraqi regime's rejection of and challenge to the Security Council resolutions, the international will, and all the forces of good will in the world redoubles the international community's responsibility for taking the necessary steps to get this tyrannical regime out of Kuwait's territories and free the Kuwaiti people from this regime's illegitimate, tyrannical, and criminal practices, which violate the most basic international laws and norms, and all divine laws that each of us is eager to apply in order for peace and security to prevail in the world.

Condemns PLO Assassination

LD1501202191 London KUNA in Arabic 1840 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 15 Jan (KUNA)—Kuwait today strongly denounced the assassination of two leaders of the Palestinian Fatah movement, Salah Khalaf and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid. This came in a communique issued by Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, minister of information, minister of state for the affairs of the Kuwaiti national Council.

Dr al-Ya'qub said: "This criminal act to which fell victim two leaders of the fatah movement that grew and began its activities in Kuwait in the sixties, is yet further proof of the endeavor of the enemies of the Arab nation and those who bear rancor against it to continue their attempts to extinguish the flame of the Palestinian struggle." [passage omitted]

Amir Receives French Presidential Envoy

LD1501204391 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1932 GMT 15 Jan 91

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Text] His Highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, may God safeguard him, has received the general secretary of the French presidency, His Excellancy Mr. Bianco, who conveyed to his highness a message from His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand on the latest developments in the Gulf situation and the firm French attitude concerning the need to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions fully and unconditionally, within the defined period. His highness, may God safeguard him, asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to his excellency the French president on this principled attitude toward the legitimate right of the Kuwaiti people. The audience was attended by Shamkh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, advisor at his highness's office; Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the French ambassador to Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Sends Reply Letter to Saddam

LD1601011391 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Letter to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd—read by announcer]

[Text] In reply to the open letter of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, addressed via Baghdad Radio to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, the custodian of the two holy mosques has issued the following letter:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

God Almighty says in his holy book: There is the type of man whose speech about this world's life may dazzle thee, and he calls God to witness about what is in his heart, yet is he the most contentious of enemies? When he turns his back, his aim everywhere is to spread mischief through the earth and destroy crops and cattle, but God loves not mischief.

President Saddam Husayn:

It is not in our character nor is it our custom, to address a person, no matter how low he may stoop in his method, even to the level which your letter has reached, except through the best of ethics, which we have learned from the teachings and behavior of Islam, on whose guidance we were raised, and in submission to God's words: When the ignorant address them, they say: peace. From this gracious Islamic platform, and out of the desire to clarify the facts for anyone who peruses the contents of your letter, we address to you the reply to some of what that letter contained in the way of misrepresentations of the facts and slanders against the truth, of which you are aware and have knowledge.

1. Why do you ignore the direct cause of all that has happened and is happening now in the Arab arena in the way of confusion, divisions, and tragedies through which the Arab nation is passing since your treacherous aggression against an Arab, Muslim and peaceful country—a neigbor of yours—which stood on your side in hard times and lent you support with all the support and backing it could muster.

Why did you betray the vow you made and the pledge you took when you affirmed to me personally and to my brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, that you would not transgress against the State of Kuwait, or harm it?

Only a few days after your promise, you embarked on the most horrendous crime in the history of mankind when, under the cover of darkness, you dispatched your Army, attacked sanctities, shed the blood of innocents, made an entire people refugees in the desert, and violated every principle, honor and norm.

Why did you amass armies and military equipment on the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the state which stood with you as a loyal man throughout the war which you fought for eight years—the fruits of which you lost in eight minutes, before the blood of a million killed had even dried from the soil of Iraq and Iran? Now you ask for the reason for the presence of the fraternal and friendly forces on the territory of the Kingdom, forgetting all the crimes committed by your hands.

Second, I had tried through the friendly ties that existed between you and me to treat the situation with wisdom and good will, and I exerted much effort to achieve your desires, once differences on the production and price of petroleum arose between you and the officials in the states of Kuwait and the [United Arab] Emirates [UAE]. I made the necessary contacts with the brotherly officials in each of the states of Kuwait and the UAE, and you had what you wanted at the time. After that, and by liaising and cooperating with my brother, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, I tried to contain the renewed difference on the subject of the border with Kuwait. I paved the way for the meeting of your emissary, Izzat Ibrahim, with Kuwait's emissary His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah, the heir apparent of Kuwait, in the city of Jeddah in order to study the dimensions of the difference and to arrive at solutions acceptable to the two sides. The meeting took place and discussions between the two delegations occurred without any interference by us. The two delegations left the kingdom in the hope of holding the second session of talks in Baghdad. Only hours later we were surprised with a catastrophe, when at 0100 hours of Thursday 2 August 1990 you occupied the State of Kuwait before the eyes and ears of the entire world, a matter which led to all these distress and pains. I immediately made telephone contact with you so that I might, perhaps, be able to contain the situation. You sent me Izzat Ibrahim, who came saying that Kuwait is part of Iraq and has returned to it.

3. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak hastened to call for convening the emergency Arab summit conference in order to give you the opportunity to retreat in the most gracious Arab way out, and through the greatest Arab gathering. We made the utmost efforts, along with the well-intentioned leaders of the Arab nation to repair the rift and lift the injustices and restore affairs to their normal course, out of a desire to safeguard the march of Arab solidarity and the unity of the Arab nation, so that its leadership can devote its time to the service of its fateful issues, the foremost of which is the Palestinian issue.

But while you were planning something unknown to us, we were surprised by the first grave division to occur in the Arab League when some left the right path by supporting injustice, backing aggression and siding with wrong against right. This painful event had the worst effect in the hearts of the sincere leaders and people of the Arab nation. This great fracture and deep wound that you have inflicted on the ranks of the Arab nation will bleed for long years.

4. The entire world, through Arab, Islamic and international resolutions, has unanimously upheld the need for your immediate unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to it, and subsequently the withdrawal of your forces deployed along the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The good offices of people, mediators of various countries of the world, have made continuous and intensive efforts to persuade you to lift the injustice against the State of Kuwait and restore matters to what they were before the 2 August 1990.

The initiatives and appeals of the leaders succeeded one another in order to realize the just and legitimate demand of the withdrawal of your forces from Kuwaiti territories. But you have refused to do anything except to affirm your insistence on continuing the aggression, while repeating the big lie, namely, that Kuwait is part of Iraq. But God is witness, and history is witness that Kuwait was never under Iraqi rule, even for one day, and that the family of al-Sabah had ruled and still rules Kuwait, for nearly 250 years to this day.

What right do you have to make this claim while you try in vain to persuade people to believe it?

5. In your letter, you ask, in a manner to which we will not stoop, who gave us the authority to bring the Arab, Islamic and friendly forces to the Kingdom? Perhaps from the position of responsibility you are aware, or perhaps you are not aware, that which gave us the authority was the duty to defend our soil, our honor and the basic requirements of our life. It is the people who placed their lives, honor, security and the property of its sons in our trust. God had guided us to make the right decision at the right time. Thus, we have frustrated what you have been planning against us in the way of treachery, cunning and deceit.

We come back to you with the same question: Who authorized you to push the Iraqi Army and people into a losing, bloody war against Iran? Who authorized you to waste the lives of one million Muslim, Iraqi, and Iranian citizens? Then, who authorized you to blow up in a single second all the gains for which you fought? After all that, we come to the most important question: Who authorized you to occupy Kuwait and to kill its sons, rape its women, violate its sanctity, loot its wealth and destroy all the features of progress there?

There is no doubt that your authorization was personal temptations, bias, the devil, and your ambitions of expansion and hegemony at the expense of your Gulf neighbors, who were proud of the Iraqi Army and hoped that it, after God, would defend the region against any aggression.

6. God says in His book: Those who invent a lie against God will never prosper.

Your letter said that we gave you only the equivalent of 11,530,000 [Iraqi] dinars as a contribution to the reconstruction of Basra, and that we gave only some equipment whose value does not exceed 1,000,000 dinars for the reconstruction of al-Faw.

From what you have now forced us into, we think that it is the time to announce the truth to the people through the figures and names.

O Ruler of Iraq: Saudi Arabia has given you the total of $25,734,469,885 distributed as follows:

$5,843,287,671 as non-returnable aid;
$9,246,575,342 as easy payment monetary loans;
$95,890,410 as development loans;
$3,739,184,077 as military and transport equipment;
$6,751,159,583 as oil aid;
$16,772,800 the value of industrial products for the reconstruction of Basra;
$20,266,667 the entitlements of SABEK from Iraq; and
$21,333,333.5 for 270 tractor trucks for spreading asphalt.

The total is $25,734,469,885.

7. You say there are many charters and agreements between us, including those which fall within the framework of nonaggression, the use of force, and interference in internal affairs. But did you adhere to those charters when you massed your armies in an offensive mode vis-a-vis the territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia? How can we trust a man who has broken his promise and occupied a secure and peace-loving state under dubious pretexts and slogans, for which efforts were being made to find appropriate solutions. Where are the charters now that the intentions have been uncovered, and the credibility of men has fallen?

8. You say in your letter that you are prepared to allow what happened to become a disturbing dream, which will not prevent a return of relations between Iraq and Saudi Arabia to their correct course, without attack, aggression or foreigners, and where God's book and the pan-Arab, fraternal, and spiritual ties between our peoples act as arbiters between us in accordance with virtue, compassion and repentence. The evacuation of the foreigner without delay is thus the only factor standing in the way of this return in our bilateral relations.

Our answer to your proposal is short and simple, and can be represented in the Almighty's saying: Give your proof if you are sincere. The evidence we want, and which all the states of the world want, indeed which is being asked of us, is your announcement of an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, verbally and in deed, so that Kuwait can return to its natural status under the amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his government and, consequently, the withdrawal of all your forces from the confrontation along the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Only then will everything that has happened as a result of your occupation of the State of Kuwait disappear.

I conclude my message by renewing and reaffirming our just demand that you make the courageous decision and prove to the entire world you are at the level of responsibility to which you aspire in the governance of Iraq. Thus, you would register an eternal stance which will be preserved for you by history throughout time because, in so doing, you would spare blood, preserve the souls of the innocent, preserve the wealth of the Arab and Islamic nations, and achieve for them every glory.

Kingdom Condemns Killing of Palestinian Leaders

LD1501185991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has announced its condemnation and denunciation of the assassination of three Fatah Central Committee members.

A responsible source said in a statement to SPA that the assassination of Salah Khalaf, Ha'il 'Abd-al-Hamid and Abu-Muhammad al-'Umari, perpetrated by criminal hands, will not prevent the Palestinian people from gaining their legitimate rights in the form of returning to their homeland, self-determination, and setting up their own independent state on their land. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Demonstrators Condemn American 'Threat' to Iraq

EA1501211091 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Today, 15 January, is the decisive day for the Gulf situation and for the world in general. The historic capital of Yemen, Sanaa, and the other governorates of the Republic have witnessed mass demonstrations coinciding with similar demonstrations worldwide, all of them protesting war in the Gulf and seeking peaceful resolution of the crisis. Our colleague, Ahmad Salih al-Hajj, correspondent of the direct newscast program, has sent us the following report from Sanaa.

[Al-Hajj] Everyone here awaits the (?deadline) anxiously; everyone is talking [words indistinct] what next, war or peace? (?Everyone) expects every diplomatic effort to be made in every direction for the sake of peace. Accordingly, for the first time Sanaa is witnessing such a huge group of people rejecting the military option, condemning the American and Western threats against Iraq. Today the streets of Yemeni cities were abundant with demonstrators, both in the capital and elsewhere. More than half a million turned out in the streets of the capital. Crowds converged from every direction and from the governorates near Sanaa, voicing their rejection of the military threats being levelled against Iraq. [passage omitted]

The demonstrators shouted slogans calling for peace and for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. They called for dialogue to be pursued to reach a comprehensive solution. The demonstrators appealed to world opinion to demand an end to Israeli occupation of Arab lands and support for the Palestinian Arab people in their struggle to establish their own independent state on their national territory under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

The crowds carried banners and posters demanding condemnation of the calls for war and expressed support for peaceful solutions and Iraqi initiatives which stress the need for linkage of the Palestinian issue to the Gulf problem. The most common slogan was: No to war, yes to peace; no solution of the Gulf crisis prior to solving the palestinian issue.

Meanwhile, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has called for the [word indistinct] all the necessary democratic [word indistinct] the Arab media [words indistinct]. He said in an interview for AL-MITHAQ yesterday that the Yemeni Constitution provides for [words indistinct] and freedom of expression and for the masses to express their views [words indistinct] and their freedom of choice.

The brother chairman and secretary general of the General People's Congress stressed that intellectuals and politicians all over the Arab world have views which do not agree with the policies of regimes and rulers working to advance their own interests.

Students Threaten To Strike U.S. Interests

NC1601110891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Sanaa, 16 Jan (INA)—The Yemeni General Students' Association has declared that U.S. interests, wherever they are, will be considered targets of its members' strikes of its members if Iraq comes under a U.S. aggression.

The INA correspondent in Sanaa reports that in a statement distributed today, the Association announced that all of its members open its doors to volunteers to carry arms to defend the dignity and sovereignty of the Arab nation.

'Largest Demonstrations Ever' Support Saddam

NC1501122891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] This morning, the masses of our great people took to the streets and public squares from the Zakho mountains to the sea in the largest demonstrations ever witnessed in great Iraq, declaring their absolute, firm support for its stalwart leader, mujahid President Saddam Husayn, in defending the glorious, eternal Iraq, and the sanctities of Muslims and Arabs.

Millions of Iraqis renewed the pledge of challenge, steadfastness, and jihad to the leader who is granted victory by God, Saddam Husayn, thus asserting to the whole world that 15 January, which the U.S. Administration wanted to be a day for undermining Iraq and the Arab nation, will remain a symbol of Arab and islamic steadfastness and resolve, and an eternal day in the epic of the victories of the Arab nation over its enemies.

Amid shouts of "God is great" and shouts of support for the president on the road of jihad and victory, the masses of our glorious people renewed the pledge of allegiance to their leader, to be in the lead of the faithful gathering of Arabs and Muslims, so as to make 15 January the beginning of the end for world imperialism, led by the U.S. Administration and its protege, Zionism, and an end to all the thrones of tyranny, corruption, and ill-gotten gains.

Saddam Visits Battlefront, Speaks to Troops

NC1501225991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. President leader Saddam Husayn has been visiting the fronts of justice against falsehood since last night and until after evening prayers on the night of 15-16 January. His excellency visited a number of the army command headquarters of certain divisions and corps as well as Basra, and the Governorate of Kuwait including the towns of Qazimah, al-Zahra', and al-Nida'.

During his visit, his excellency the leader met a number of the brave commanders, officers, and fighters. His excellency also met with comrades 'Ali Hasan al-Najib and Kan'an Ibrahim. Wherever he went, the great leader was flanked by the brave sons of Iraq, the symbol of the great mujahid of this age, with their strength which comes from God Almighty. They reiterated their pledge to confront any aggression if the aggressors let themselves be seduced to launch any aggression and if God wills, for the brave sons of al-Rafidayn [Iraq] to engage in this major showdown.

During the visit, the leader's brothers and sons, the brave sons of great Iraq, emphasized that they are ready for the confrontation, that victory is the alliance of great principles, and that the banner of God is great and will continue to fly high over the heads of the faithful Iraqis, thus recording a new era for all the faithful of the nation's sons. [words indistinct] and those who betrayed the nation and deviated from the road of God, dignity, honor, and the principles of relations among the sons of the one and only nation.

Addressing his brothers and sons, leader Saddam Husayn said that his visits are not made in order to assure himself of [?their readiness] for all contingencies because he is confident that the sons of faithful Iraq, which has been chosen by God to carry the banner of God, the banner of God is great, in a jihad for the sake of God and zealot believers wherever they may be. The sons of faithful Iraq are always prepared to confront and defeat the aggression of aggressors. The leader president visited the front to meet with his brothers and sons to express his humanitarian concern for his sons, the fighters, as this would boost the capabilities and render them more effective in the service of God and his principles and [word indistinct] chosen by God Almighty.

In his address to his brothers and sons, the fighters of faithful Iraq, the leader stressed that there is no bargaining over the nation's and Iraq's rights, that the motto of expelling the infidel aggressors who desecrated the sacred land of the Muslims in the holy Ka'bah of God and the tomb of the Prophet is one which the Iraqis will continue to raise and to call on the believers to insist on with unbending strength and resolve, and that the jihad for the liberation of Palestine is a final stand.

The leader implored to God Almighty to spare the faithful and all the Muslims and Arabs from the acts of the evildoers. He also beseeched God Almighty to spare our sons on all battlefronts from all evils, to protect them, and to fortify them against everything harmful, and God is great.

Paper Says Israel 'First Target' of Attack

NC1601085391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0640 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has published an article entitled "Woe to Them When the Hour of Reckoning Draws Near." The article says:

We have repeatedly said that if the U.S. aggression starts we will burn the ground under the feet of the invaders and make them eat the fire. We are now prepared to crush the forces they might send into battle so that none will live to tell the story.

This is not wishful thinking but what we know about our own strength and how we have prepared for this battle. The brave Iraqi Army arrayed on the battlefield has completed its preparations and is eager to fight this battle, opening the way for realizing the great aims of the Arabs and Muslims.

Over the past decades, our Arab nation has not been able to seize its historic opportunity. It can seize it now

because all the factors for victory are available to this nation, God willing. The people of the Arab nation, who have long been expecting liberation and emancipation, are now impatient to pounce on the dens of evil everywhere. The impending battle will give them the historic opportunity they have been waiting for to regain their rights and take vengeance on the usurper enemies who participated in bringing the nation to its present state of dismemberment and backwardness, and plundered the Arabs' natural wealth.

We in Iraq stand at the forefront of the faithful. Though not seeking war, we refuse to be under the trusteeship of any world power that considers itself great. If those sick minds harbor illusions of controlling us, we will return the aggression by hitting their most sensitive spots. The most painful blow to U.S. imperialism is to strike its advanced base in the region, the Zionist entity, because this base is the lung from which it breathes. Therefore, this base, which the unjust force of aggression planted on Arab land, will be the first target of our devastating and ruinous blows.

We know that the U.S. aggression will not be able to carry out its schemes. Ensuring the Zionist entity's security is a priority of the U.S. political aims, as is occupying the sources of Arab oil and striking at Iraq's power.

Thus, the enemies' machinations will boomerang. What they thought to be an easy quarry has turned out to be a painful thorn in their sides—the tried and tested Iraq, which is qualified for the battle. Iraq will be the great rock on which all the enemy attacks will founder. Woe to them if the hour of reckoning draws near.

Battle Drawn to 'Hostile Espionage Establishments'

NC1601114291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that the gathering of evil will face devastating and immense blows, unimagined by those who planned and abetted aggression.

In an editorial today, the paper said that the brave Iraqis and their Arab and Islamic nation are fighting the grand battle with unlimited courage and determination until a decisive, clear victory is achieved. They are in top form to defeat the evil concentrations that have gathered on our southern border, the paper added.

The paper affirmed that Iraq, along with the good, honorable people and mujahidin will extend the battle to where the evildoers' vital interests and hostile espionage establishments exist or gather. It added that the fedayeen legions have completed their preparations, relying on God, the sponsor of right. They are waiting for the signal to carry out their assigned role in the mother of battles.

The newspaper referred to the French defense minister's statement that the U.S. losses would be around 100,000 and to a statement by Sam Nunn, a prominent U.S. Congress official, that the American people should expect to hear grave news about their sons if war breaks out.

The paper stressed that the fedayeen will have their share in the land confrontation with the invading concentrations and those who are allied with them to further their own evil aims. Moreover, fedayeen teams in our brave Air Force have completed their training in well-known missions and achieved their objectives in the air, on land, and at sea. This means that the war criminal Bush must take into account the unbearable losses that his forces, armor, and fleets will sustain.

Saddam Reportedly To Command Troops Directly

OW1601121991 Beijing XINHUA in English 1048 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, January 16 (XINHUA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will directly command the battle against the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said Wednesday in Baghdad.

"President Saddam Husayn will from now on direct the battle, but he will be assisted by his commanders," the speaker said, indicating that Saddam had taken over the command of the Iraqi Army.

Saddam Wednesday morning, just one hour before the UN-set deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, told his troops in a radio broadcast that they were ready for the Gulf War.

Opposition Leaders To Meet in London 18 Jan

LD1501162791 Tehran IRNA in English 1351 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] London, Jan. 15, IRNA—Iraq's opposition parties will meet in London on Friday [18 January] to plan for a return to Iraq and the setting up of a provisional government there, in the aftermath of the Kuwait crisis, which they hope will leave Saddam Husayn and the Ba'th Party, removed from power.

The meeting follows their declaration drawn up in Damascus in December, in which they affirmed a shared commitment to democracy and human rights. However, there are some fears that although ideological, religious and ethnic differences have been temporarily forgotten, the Friday meeting may succeed only in papering over deep-rooted distrust.

About 100,000 Iraqi exiles are believed to have settled in Britain over the past 30 years and more are said to be arriving each week. The weekend conference in London is expected to be attended by the most prominent opponents of Saddam Husayn.

These will include General Hassan al-Naqib, Jalal Talebani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Masoud Barazani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic

Party, Mohammad Baqer Hakim of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution, based in Iran, Aziz Mohammed of the Iraqi Communist Party, Sa'id Husayn al-Sadr, of the Al-Dawa Party, and representatives of smaller groups.

Sa'id Husayn al-Sadr, a Shi'a cleric with offices in Edgware Road, central London, is optimistic about the outcome of the meeting. "There will be democracy, the Iraqis are ready for it," he said. And he believes the Iraqi people "will have a government chosen by the people which will resolve all problems".

His party, Al-Dawa, wants a provisional government lasting around six months before proper elections are held. But the Kurds, who are themselves divided into groups, believe the interim government should last longer, possibly as long as 2 years.

Other divisions exist, because the religious Shi'a groups are firmly opposed to the communists gaining power, and are in favour of a religious government. Sa'id Husayn al-Sadr stressed that "ideology, especially the distrust of socialism or communism, is one reason it is hard to agree on a platform".

If there were fair elections in Iraq, the Shi'as, as the most numerous and poorest group, would probably emerge with a majority, observers believe.

Paper Says Army Ready for 'Zero Hour'

NC1601085091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH stresses that Iraq's brave men at the front of rightness have their fingers on the trigger while awaiting the zero hour for engaging in the most honorable epic in history—the mother of battles.

In its editorial today, the paper stresses that the time for the battle has come and that empty threats and brutal arrogance are now out of place and untimely. The Iraqis have looked to justice while believing in jihad and relying on God and the determination of leader Saddam Husayn. They are ready to end a dark era in Arab and human history by removing the claws of the U.S. monster, which spread corruption in the world, tried to enslave humanity, and practiced all forms of aggression against nations, especially the Arab nation. The United States has long shown disdain for the Arab nation's national and human rights and has intended to harm its dignity and pride and to belittle its cultural role.

The battles will have positive effects, says the paper. The U.S. and foreign forces of invasion and tyranny will be repulsed in a way that guarantees the rule of genuine law and international legitimacy, which adopt a single standard. This will also be done in a way that ends the organized U.S. looting of peoples' wealth. The social justice God wants on earth will prevail. If God wants Iraq's Army and people to lead the believers, and if He wants its territory from Zakho to the 19th governorate, Kuwait, to be the battlefield, then this is an honor to which Iraq will rise. We will use all our human, economic, and military capabilities and resources to preserve this honor, and the heroic Iraqi Army will crown it with a decisive and splendid victory against the aggressive U.S. war machine.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that Iraq's intelligent leader Saddam Husayn pledges Iraq will not accept less than victory in this battle—not only military victory, but also a victory that enables us to wrest our national and pan-Arab rights from Bush and all his allies and agents. What the villains want is nothing but our capitulation, but they are dreaming. For, "the time of capitulation has gone" as the leader president says. That time troubled the Arabs and made them lose their credibility. Since Iraq is the leader of the new Arab march toward freedom and liberation, capitulation is impossible; indeed, it is disavowal of the march of the July revolution and its policy throughout the years, a policy that never bargains over rights.

Salih Stresses Saddam's 'Key' 12 Aug Initiative

NC1501125691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has stressed Iraq's serious and sincere desire to realize comprehensive peace in the Arab region based on President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

In a statement during a reception for Mr. John Albert, member of the higher council of the Green Party and the delegation accompanying him now visiting Iraq, the speaker said that President Saddam Husayn's initiative is the key to all outstanding issues at the head of which is the central cause of the Arabs, the Palestinian problem.

Salih added that any U.S.-Zionist adventure to mount an aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation will not succeed in overpowering Iraq's steadfastness under the courageous and outstanding leadership of President Saddam Husayn, who is backed by all Arab and Islamic masses. These masses, he said, are fed up with the American policy of hegemony and blackmail against their legitimate aspirations.

Salih noted that by closing the doors of dialogue and peaceful negotiations with Iraq, the United States has demonstrated its insistence on continuing a policy of war and aggression. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Party, British Greens Issue Joint Statement

NC1501172591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the British Green Party have called on international organizations to put pressure on the U.S.

Administration to adopt a constructive dialogue to solve the region's problems on a just and peaceful basis.

In a joint statement issued at the conclusion of their meeting today, the two parties stressed that dialogue and negotiations, not the use of military force, are the correct way of solving the region's problems.

The two parties warned of the dangers to the environment that war could cause. The environmental impact of a war would spread over vast areas and last a long time.

'Holy Medina' Claims U.S. Plans Assassination

NC1501213091 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2040 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Holy Medina broadcast]

[Text] O our people in Najd and Hejaz. O men, sons of men. We have just received the following:

It has been learned from reliable sources that U.S. intelligence has been planning for some time to remove Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz from the political scene. In the event it fails, U.S. intelligence plans to assassinate him in a way that does not arouse suspicion, that is, by fabricating an accident.

These sources say that the reason for this is his unfriendly position toward the United States.

It has been reported that the relationship between Fahd and Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz is unenviable and that they are worried and afraid of the consequences of launching a war against Iraq. The sources noted that the U.S. Administration has begun to groom Saudi Ambasador in Washington Bandar Bin-Sultan for the foreign ministry portfolio instead of Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Baghdad Hospitals Would Treat Wounded Egyptians

NC1601104191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—Iraq has expressed its full willingness to offer medical care and first aid to the brother Egyptians in case war breaks out and treat them in its hospitals instead of the Cairo hospitals.

The INA Arab affairs editor said this, responding to the Egyptian newspaper AL-WAFD's reports that major hospitals in Cairo and the main Egyptian cities were emptied to receive those wounded in the war if it breaks out.

The INA Arab affairs editor stressed that what links Iraq to the sons of Egypt is much greater than such services, which are offered at humanitarian and pan-Arab levels.

Envoy in Mexico Says U.S. Must Withdraw

PA1501023291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0053 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Sabbar Ahmad Rageb, the Iraqi ambassador to Mexico, said today that the United States and its allies must withdraw from the Persian Gulf in order to resume diplomatic negotiations that would lead to a solution of the problem.

The diplomat said that if the world wants peace to reign then it must demand the immediate withdrawal of George Bush's government from the area. He reiterated that his country will not leave Kuwait because "it is one more Iraqi city."

At a news conference, Ahmad Rageb noted that his people, Arabs and Muslims, do not want war. He maintained that President Saddam Husayn wants to solve the conflict through a dialogue "that would lead to a lasting, global, and just peace."

He stressed that demonstrations in many countries are being staged to oppose the intervention of the United States and its allies "because they are the ones playing the drums of war." The diplomat emphasized that, so far, he has not received instructions from his government to leave the diplomatic mission in Mexico "because we are in a friendly, peaceful, and safe country."

Sudanese Envoy Affirms 'Strict Stand Beside Iraq'

EA1401120491 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 January (SUNA)—Sudan's ambassador to Baghdad, Yusuf Mukhtar, has affirmed Sudan's strict stand beside Iraq in face of the American aggression. Sudan will play a basic role in defending the Islamic sacred places and the Arab dignity in case of any (?affair) against Iraq by the Western forces. He pointed to Sudan's (?several) initiatives for solving the Gulf crisis peacefully since its eruption by contacting the Arab leaders, accusing some circles of working for making Sudan initiatives a failure because they consider these initiatives as dangerous to their policies in the region.

Kurdistan Party Pledges Support

NC1301152491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—The Democratic Party of Kurdistan Political Bureau has pledged that it will stand in the vanguard on the day of the honorable showdown in defense of great Iraq against the U.S.-NATO aggression. In a statement issued after a meeting of the party's leadership, cadres, and friends, the Political Bureau said that it is more ready than ever to defend the security, stability, gains, and principles of the precious homeland under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The statement said that the Iraqi people, both Arabs and Kurds, are confident that the great army, which was built on honest principles and which has practiced struggle and succeeded in overcoming difficulties, is lying in wait for anyone seeking to harm the people and the gains they have made throughout years of steady struggle. It pointed out that the Iraqi people are fully prepared to offer further sacrifices in defense of their noble values. The statement emphasized that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative is the ideal solution to the region's problems, foremost among which is the Palestinian issue and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights from the usurper Zionist entity.

Communist Party Demands Withdrawal From Kuwait

NC1501193191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Beirut, 15 Jan (SANA)—The Iraqi Communist Party called for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and for finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

In a statement it issued today, the party held the Iraqi president responsible for the eruption of war if he persists in his policy. It stressed that Israel will be the only beneficiary of this war.

The party appealed to all the forces of the Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and the international community to exert efforts to avert the catastrophe of war in order to protect the Iraqi people and ensure the Arab nation's interests. It warned that if such a war erupts, it would have destructive consequences, particularly for Iraq.

Ba'th Command Eulogizes Slain Palestinian Leaders

NC1501141491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Statement issued by the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on 15 January—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] O sons of our great people. O masses of our glorious Arab masses.

At a time when the forces of evil, blasphemy, and imperialist and Zionist tyranny are joining hands, escalating their plotting, massing their troops and fleets, and getting ready to launch their blatant aggression on Iraq—the Arab nation's vanguard and its citadel of renaissance and capability, and the country expressing this nation's rights and historic pan-Arab rights to liberation, unity, and overall development—at these critical moments, the enemies of the Arab nation and the imperialists and Zionists who are lying in wait have committed a new ugly crime: the assassination of three very prominent faithful and experienced strugglers of the Palestinian people—Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], and their comrade Abu-Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari—in Tunis last night.

The timing of this criminal and base action against these Palestinian strugglers clearly shows and confirms not only the truth about the parties that have perpetrated this abominable crime but also undoubtedly confirms the extent of the close link between this aggression against the Palestinian people's leadership and the premeditated aggression against Iraq, which is standing firmly and proudly and challenging the gang of evildoers and tyrants led by the tyrant of the era, the U.S. Administration and its deformed ally, Israel.

The assassination of Abu-Iyad, Abu-al-Hawl, and their comrade Abu-Muhammad al-'Umari does not mean at all the assassination of the Palestinian Arab people's struggle or the liquidation of the cause of liberating Palestine and purging it of Zionist desecration. [passage omitted]

This crime that has been perpetrated by agents of Zionism and world imperialism at this particular time very clearly reveals the state of political bankruptcy from which the Arab nation's enemies and those lying in wait are suffering. It confirms yet again that these enemies and plotters do not hesitate to commit the most baseless and gross crimes of political assassination against the Arab nation and its revolutionary leadership, who believe in the aim of liberating Palestine and of wresting all the usurped national and pan-Arabs rights from the hands of the nation's enemies and the usurpers of its territories and resources.

If these criminal butchers who carried out the assassination and those behind them believe that this criminal act will weaken the resolve of the Palestinian people and their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO; confuse the group of believers; and weaken their determination and readiness to fight the forces of evil and aggression in the mother of battles—in which the Palestinian issue is the core of the struggle, as historic leader Saddam Husayn has stressed—they are greatly deluded. The legions of believers and liberators are continuing to mass the ranks and to take their positions on the front of justice. They are fully determined and have the capability to destroy aggression and repel aggressors. They are more than ever determined to inflict a sweeping defeat on the invaders, evildoers, and all agents who have squandered the land and holy places and mobilized themselves to serve U.S. imperialism and Zionisn and implement their evil scheming plots.

On behalf of our people and our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, we extend our deepest condolences to the comrades of Abu-Iyad and Abu-al-Hawl, to the PLO, and to the struggling Palestinian people. We strongly denounce this cowardly criminal act and condemn this political assassination. We firmly believe that the Palestinian people's loss of this group of strugglers will inflame their struggle and increase their commitment to the heroic struggle for their legitimate and inalienable rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination and setting up their independent sovereign state on the land of Palestine.

The Palestinian people, who have been making sacrifices for more than 40 years and who are standing with Iraq in its confrontation with the imperialist-Zionist aggression, will find in the mother of battles their historic opportunity. It will also be the opportunity for all honest Arabs to achieve the noble national and pan-Arab aims, foremost of which is the liberation of Palestine, retrieval of holy Jerusalem, and purging the lands of Muslims in Najd and Hejaz.

Glory to the martyrs of Palestine. Glory to all the martyrs of the Arab nation on the path of liberation, unity, glory, and renaissance. May the enemies of the nation, those plotting against it, and those lying in wait for it be the losers.

New Group of 166 POW's Return From Iran

NC1501194491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—A new group of Iraqi prisoners of war consisting of 166 soldiers returned to the homeland fom Tehran on board a private Iraqi plane this evening.

The returnees from captivity expressed their love for and pride in their homeland and their leader, President Saddam Husayn. They lauded his humanitarian initiative in establishing permanent and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran.

In remarks to an INA correspondent, the returness expressed their full readiness to make any sacrifice to defend the homeland and safeguard its security and sovereignty.

Baghdad Radio Reportedly Inaudible on Short Wave

LD1601095991 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] [Announcer] I have learned that broadcasts by Radio Baghdad are practically inaudible on all the short-wave frequencies normally used by Iraq: On the other hand they can be heard on the medium waves which correspond to the old frequencies of Radio Kuwait which have been taken over by Iraq since the invasion of the emirate. The jamming [brouillage] in fact seems to have begun several weeks ago but it has strongly intensified since this morning.

Foreign Minister: Israel in 'State of War'

TA1601061791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 0520 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by anchorman Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin in the Jerusalem studio—live]

[Text] [Halperin] Good morning.

[Levi] Good morning.

[Halperin] I suppose I can use the phrase "good morning." Is the region in a state of war or is there still some hope for a political solution? Perhaps the door has not been slammed shut completely.

[Levi] According to all the facts, we are in a state of war. It is not Israel that has decided on that dramatic development, but it is being threatened and is ready to face any situation dictated by anybody else. We are being threatened and are prepared. At the same time, it should be asked if logic is operating here. Logic is not functioning. Saddam Husayn knows what is facing him and that the danger he can expect is one of certain destruction and total ruin. At the same time, everybody is asking how he can keep us in such a state of uncertainty and leave his own country, nation, and army open to such a fateful adventure. It might be possible that his logic is like ours since for him 15 January was a challenge. Today we will know if he will have second thoughts at the last moment and will retreat and claim the 15th arrived and the Americans did not attack.

[Halperin] In your view, can Israel remain outside the conflict, and remain a spectator from the wings?

[Levi] We would like that to be the case all the time, including the present, but we are being threatened. As we witnessed the day before yesterday, yesterday, and today, the Iraqis say that if they are attacked by the Americans they will attack Israel. On the other hand, it was Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, who said that even if not attacked they still had the option of attacking Israel. Israel cannot remain indifferent in the face of those threats and is taking all necessary steps.

[Halperin] Are you satisfied with the level of political and strategic coordination with the Americans?

[Levi] I believe that in the past few days we have made very good progress on sensitive issues. For both sides this is important and even vital. I can only praise the coordination and steadfastness of the U.S. Administration. It is acting just as it promised it would both in discussions and in the Security Council. It continues to remain firm on the principles shared by Israel and the United States. In other words it is determined that the aggressor will not reap any fruit whatsoever, that there will be no linkage [preceding word in English] between the Gulf issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. We must recall one other thing which is most important. The situation Israel has been facing all along is now clear to all, and whoever believed that the Palestinian issue was the heart of the problem in the Middle East has now wisened up because he now sees that such rulers with such arsenals are the danger. We faced Iraq and other powers, such as Syria, without the present armada and the international coalition.

[Ahime'ir] Minister, excuse me for interrrupting, but we have our correspondent Ya'ir Stern on the line from Washington. Good morning Ya'ir. We have Foreign Minister David Levi with us here. We would like to know the evaluations in Washington at this hour. What is going to happen, as far as is known?

[Ya'ir] So far nothing has happened. Midnight has passed and the war has not begun. The experts here believe that something will happen in the coming days. In other words, it is a quesiton of days not hours, but also not a week. The evaluation is that if there is a military operation it will take place within two to three days. The military experts here say that it will be at night so that the Americans can make use of their Air Force's sophisticated equipment for night bombing.

[Ahime'ir] Foreign Minister, can you confirm that evaluation although it is an American one? Do you know something about it?

[Levi] Evaluations are being made both here and there. There is a Russian saying: We know as much as you do. There are those both here and there who make evaluations, but the person who will decide at this crucial hour is Saddam Husayn. We are all waiting to see how his logic works, but it is also clear to him that if he does not retreat he will pay a very heavy price. Others might also pay, but he is pushing the world into the abyss of his own suicide, one which also means damage and destruction for many others. Despite everything we have known up until now, many things will change after this war.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Herbrew at 0620 GMT on 16 January also carries an interview with Foreign Minister Levi by Dan Shilon in which the foreign minister is asked how he would define Israel's national interest in the Gulf crisis. He replies: "Nobody can provide a clearcut answer to that question. On the other hand, it is clear that we are dealing with somebody capable of doing anything, who has at his disposal an arsenal with enormous destructive capability, and with a concept of expansion and fanaticism which is threatening us. If he remains with that arsenal, then the problem will have to be dealt with, if not today then tomorrow. That man is a constant threat. Nobody wants war, but I would not like that danger to hover over us for long. We must recall that Saddam did everything to get nuclear weapons and almost achieved his aim. We removed from him the possibility of threatening the entire world. Had we not destroyed his nuclear capability in 1981 all the rules of the game would have been completely different today. Despite all the claims by all the experts he did not give up his efforts to achieve those weapons. There are those

who say that he mas made great progress in that direction. In other words, you can gain two years and face a constant threat for an entire generation. There is no balance of terror for such types, there is terror without balance, therefore if I were to say what Israel's national interest is I would say the destruction of his arsenal."]

Shamir Views Retaliation, Involvement

PM1501141191 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 14 Jan 91

["Exclusive" interview in English with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Julian O'Halloran on the BBC-2 "Newsnight" program, presented by Peter Snow; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Snow] As Israel braces itself for a possible missile strike by Iraq, the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, tells Newsnight in an exclusive interview that Israel retains the right to retaliate against any attack. Over the weekend Israel came under intense pressure from the United States to adopt a low profile and not to launch a preemptive strike against Iraq. But the American deputy secretary of state, Lawrence Eagleburger, also asked Israel not to hit back if it was attacked. Julian O'Halloran asked the Israeli prime minister what reply he gave.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] There have been some talks about the ways and means of our defense forces when we will face such steps, some aggressive steps from Iraq. But I think that the Americans have not been surprised by our position that we have the right and the duty to defend ourselves, and we will do it. Of course we will always take into consideration the American interests, the American presence in the area, but we will keep our right to defend ourselves.

[O'Halloran] So we can expect that Israel will retaliate in some degree under any kind of attack. Is that right?

[Shamir] Nobody can be sure that Israel will not retaliate.

[O'Halloran] But let's suppose an Iraqi missile lands in Israel, kills a few people or causes some casualties. You are used to low-level casualties over these years. Is it really worth risking the whole alliance against Saddam Husayn just for the sake of tit-for-tat retaliation against Iraq?

[Shamir] Well, it's not our strategy to respond to every attack on us. We have to consider all the steps we will take, but any step and any blow against us we will take very seriously, very seriously.

[O'Halloran] But surely any serious Israeli involvement in such a war would place some of the Arab allies against Saddam Husayn in an intolerable position and would force them to reconsider their participation in the alliance.

[Shamir] I think that there is a lot of exaggeration. Israel is not interested to be fully involved in this war. There is no reason for it, because we have nothing to do with this confrontation. We are not involved in this matter of Kuwait, for instance. We will only do something if we are attacked.

[O'Halloran] Can you explain to the world why it is that Israelis have been given gas masks and Israeli settlers within the occupied territories are now being given gas masks, but that so far Palestinians in the occupied territories haven't been given gas masks?

[Shamir] All the.... [changes thought] It's a question of time. All the inhabitants of our country will get gas masks.

[O'Halloran] But some people are of a higher priority than others?

[Shamir] No, it's a question of efficiency, of some priorities, and er... it's a question of organization.

[O'Halloran] But isn't it going to look a little bad that settlers on the West Bank were getting their gas masks yesterday afternoon, but the Palestinians living next door to them have not gotten their gas masks?

[Shamir] All of them will get gas masks. All the Arab citizens of Israel got it, you know.

[O'Halloran] What about the issue of gas masks being used perhaps by Palestinians in the territories to defeat the tear gas of the troops you have stationed in the territories? Was that one of your concerns?

[Shamir] No, it's not serious, it's not serious.

[O'Halloran] So that's not the reason why the Palestinians haven't got gas masks.

[Shamir] No, no, it's not serious. They will get it. It's not serious.

[O'Halloran] Finally, can we ask about the question of linkage? Do you still hold to your position that you will not take part in an international conference on the Middle East to solve among others the Israeli-Palestinian question?

[Shamir] First, I will say that there is not any linkage or any tie between this problem of the Palestinians and the conflict we are facing now about Kuwait, for instance, and I think that the secretary, the American secretary of state, explained it very well: that Kuwait was not invaded because of the Palestinian problem. And of course there are many ways to solve the conflict between Israel and the Arab world, and I think that when the crisis is over we will invest a serious effort in finding the appropriate way to solve this conflict.

[O'Halloran] But your position before has always been that you wouldn't take part in an international conference.

[Shamir] We don't think that a conference is a way to solve the conflict. There are better ways to do it.

[O'Halloran] You rule out taking part in such a conference altogether?

[Shamir] Well, if such a conference will be conveyed [as heard] without our agreement, of course we will not participate in it, and we don't think that such a conference is necessary.

Air Force Chief Bin-Nun Views Gulf Situation

Special Tactics Developed

TA1601091791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Jan 91 p 3

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] "The Air Force has developed special tactics that will enable it to hit the missile launchers in Iraq quickly and accurately.... The Air Force promises the Israeli people: We will chase the Iraqi planes wherever they go."

This was stated yesterday by Air Force Commander Major General Avihu Bin-Nun in a briefing to foreign correspondents. He added that the Patriot missile batteries received by the Air Force would soon be operational.

"We do not know exactly where all the Iraqi missile launchers are situated," Gen. Bin-Nun stated yesterday afternoon, "but our information is very good. We know about 30 static launchers and 35 mobile ones. Each of their launchers can fire two to three missiles and then it becomes nonoperational for a long time, for some six hours between one launch to the next. As things stand now, at 1700 [1500 GMT on 15 January], we have not discerned any signs that they have placed the missiles in the launchers."

He added that it is not known whether the Iraqis have outfitted their missiles with chemical warheads, but noted that this has definitely been taken into account.

"Although it is hard to hit the launchers," Gen. Bin-Nun added, "we have the ability to do it. In the last few months, the Air Force has developed special tactics... we have not yet tested them, but we believe we have the capacity to hit the launchers quickly and accurately."

Bin-Nun voiced his assessment that Israel would not be involved in an all-out war but in a focused operation against a definite Iraqi threat. He said that the flying time is 30 minutes to the H-2 and H-3 Iraqi air bases in western Iraq and about 50 minutes to Baghdad. "Given the level of alertness and preparedness of the Air Force, from the moment the order is given it would take us between one to one and a half hours to reach the farthest locations," the Air Force commander noted.

Asked whether enemy planes would be able to penetrate Israel, Gen. Bin-Nun said: "They have operationally-fit Sukhoi-24's which can fly at a low altitude to Israel and back without refueling, but we have enough means to prevent enemy planes from penetrating Israel's territory, although individual Iraqi planes may get through.

"However, any Iraqi plane reaching Israeli territory—even if it manages to get away—will not make it back to Iraq, and this is a promise from the Air Force to Israel's citizens. Even if we have to chase them back into Iraq or anywhere else, they will not make a safe landing. The Iraqis would be well advised to take this into consideration."

The Air Force commander said he believed Jordan would emulate its conduct during the Yom Kippur War, and would not try to prevent Israeli Air Force planes from overflying its airspace. "At that time, too, our planes crossed over Jordan en route to Syria. Jordan did not interfere, and was not harmed. As long as Jordan's planes remain on the ground they will not be hit. In any event, we will chase Iraqi planes even over Jordanian territory and we will not let them off the hook until they are destroyed."

Gen. Bin-Nun also referred to the issue of coordination with the Americans saying that, clearly, if the Air Force is called upon to operate in the arena it will have to do that in cooperation with the Americans. "I suppose we will have full coordination with them," he remarked, and added: "There is no knowledge about regular data from satellites relayed to us by the Americans, but they have accurate information about the Iraqi missiles from satellites crossing over the region every few minutes." [sentence as published]

Bin-Nun said that in his opinion the Americans should attain aerial supremacy over Iraq's entire territory even if they make do with an operation confined to Kuwait, so as to tip the scales in their favor as soon as possible.

Action To Be Coordinated With U.S.

TA1601002691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2200 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Major General Avihu Bin-Nun has said that there has been no change in the Iraqi missile deployment over the past 24 hours and that, in any event, the Air Force knows the exact location of the Iraqi missiles. Maj. Gen. Bin-Nun added that the Air Force will be able to reach Iraq and attack the Iraqi system with special techniques developed by the Air Force over the past few months, since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Air Force commander also said he believes Israel will not act without coordination with the United States, and that if it acts, it will only be after receiving an accurate aerial picture from the Americans and with full coordination with them.

Maj. Gen. Bin-Nun spoke this afternoon at a news conference for foreign reporters at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv. He said that the Air Force can stop waves of all kinds of assault aircraft, and that the Iraqis should take into consideration that we will chase every Iraqi plane and will not allow their aircraft to land at their bases in Iraq. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2200 GMT on 15 January, in a similar report on the Air Force commander's press briefing, adds: "Maj. Gen. Avihu Bin-Nun said there has been no change in the state of the Iraqi missiles over the past 36 hours. He added that each

Iraqi missile launcher can launch only three missiles, and only at six-hour intervals."] [passage omitted]

The assessment prevalent among Air Force officers is that the chances of Iraqi aircraft penetration into Israel are small, due, first, to the long distance, which requires in-flight refueling, and, second, to the fact that the Iraqi Air Force will be fighting the U.S. Air Force. [passage omitted]

Ready for 'Offensive Activity'

TA1501174391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the Air Force commander, says that there has been no change whatsoever in the state of the Iraqi missiles in the past 36 hours. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 15 January reports that the Air Force commander made these remarks at a briefing for foreign correspondents] Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

The Air Force is prepared for every possibility, said Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the Air Force commander. According to him, the Air Force is ready to carry out any offensive activity, if required, in response to an Iraqi initiative.

[Begin recording] [Bin-Nun, in English] We are taking into consideration all the possible threats, either air attacks or ground-launched missiles, and we are taking all the necessary steps to prevent it and to react, if necessary.

[Voice of Israel reporter Jack Katzenell, in English] Would that include an offensive operation, rather than waiting for the enemy to reach Israel's borders?

[Bin-Nun] That includes an offensive operation in reaction. [end recording]

As for operational cooperation with the Americans, Gen. Bin-Nun said that if the Israeli Air Force is required to carry out offensive missions, he believes, if actual action is called for, there will be all the cooperation we need.

[Begin Bin-Nun recording] I believe that once it comes to pass, we will have all the necessary coordination. [end recording]

The antiaircraft system, said Gen. Bin-Nun, including the ground- to-air missiles and artillery, is well deployed in the widest fashion possible and in a manner unseen since 1973. The two Patriot systems are in Israel and will be ready for use soon.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 15 January, in a similar report, adds: "The Air Force commander pointed out that the United States has promised to stand by Israel if we are attacked by Iraq.

["One of the main problems we are facing are Iraq's Sukhoi-24's, which are capable of reaching Israel and carrying out attacks here. They can attack Israel from each of Iraq's bases along the border. These aircraft have the necessary attack range."

[The report adds: "When asked whether the Iraqis have chemical warheads, Gen. Bin-Nun said: We assume they do not. In any event, just to be prepared, we assume they have less than 20 nonconventional warheads.

["Gen. Bin-Nun further estimated that after two or three days in which the Americans will demonstrate aerial superiority, they will be able to simply march into Kuwait."]

Possibility of 'Preemptive' Iraqi Attack Viewed

TA1501124491 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Jan 91 pp A1, 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen and Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] There is the possibility of a preemptive Iraqi strike against Israel in the coming 24 hours. That is the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] working assumption, updated to this morning.

The evaluation is that the Iraqi attack might be either a missile or air strike. In view of that assessment it will be decided today whether to announce the cancellation of all school activities and a state of emergency on the home front. It was published yesterday that Civil Defense Headquarters has recommended to civilians to immediately seal up one room in their homes in order to shorten the time needed to prepare if an emergency situation is declared or an air siren is heard.

It was learned yesterday that the United States has promised Israel that the moment fighting breaks out it would regard an attack on the missile lineup aimed at Israel as a top priority. Israel promised to give up its right to make a preemptive strike, but rejected the U.S. call to avoid any military response if there is an Iraqi attack. Jerusalem announced that if it is attacked it will respond accordingly.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 15 January in a page 2 report by Shim'on Schiffer and Dani Sade adds that political circles in Jerusalem said that the circles expressed "satisfaction with the outcome of the talks with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger." These were reported as saying that "understanding was reached between the two countries and that the U.S. promised Israel that its aircraft would attack Iraqi targets where missile launchers were aimed at Israel in the first wave of U.S. action against Iraq."]

The IDF yesterday raised the alert on the home front, in the Air Force, and the Intelligence Branch, and is prepared in the face of heightened activity on the borders with Jordan and Syria. [passage omitted]

The evaluation in Israel is that the Iraqi missile threat is not critical and is limited to Iraqi's ability to launch 10 to 23 missiles within 24 hours if the launch is not interfered with. Before each launch the missiles have to be prepared and

fueled, which takes several hours and leaves time for an intelligence warning, via U.S. satellites, among other means

If missiles with conventional warheads are launched their payloads are no bigger than 180 kg. The launchers, some 30 in number, have been deployed by Iraq in areas H2 and H3, some 600 km from the Israeli border. [passage omitted]

IDF Spokesman on Readiness, Reserves Mobilization

TA1601071091

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 16 January carries a six-minute live interview with Israeli Army Spokesman Brigadier General Nahman Shay by Ya'aqov Ahim'eir.

Shay says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has taken all measures to deal with a state of alert and notes that "the Air Force yesterday raised its state of alert to the point where it can provide any response, both in the defensive alignment, and if need be, to strike Iraq in all sorts of scenarios. I think the Air Force is now ready. We hope nothing will happen, but the Air Force is definitely ready. The same holds true about the home front."

He asserts that the IDF places its emphasis on the Air Force and anti-aircraft defense "because the only possible scenario at the moment is an Iraqi air strike on Israel out of despair or to divert attention from the Persian Gulf to us."

The IDF spokesman advises the public to complete sealing up a room in each house and suggests that children be kept close to their homes. Adults are asked to go to work and continue with their daily routine to the extent possible.

Asked whether Defense Minister Moshe Arens will formally declare a state of emergency, Shay notes that "if it is assessed that the situation is worsening, for one reason or another, we may also reach this point. At present, we believe everything that had to be done has been done," including the decision to close down schools which the defense minister and the chief of staff adopted after much debating and deliberations. The IDF spokesman notes that this decision "will be reassessed sometime on Saturday night."

Shay points out that that there is no large-scale mobilization of the reserves in Israel, "but merely a very partial mobilization aimed at reinforcing the home front. A few Air Force units have been mobilized, particularly in the antiaircraft defense alignment which we had to reinforce, and that is where it stopped. Most of the Air Force is made up of regular troops who can be mobilized at any given moment and are at our disposal, in an outstanding manner, I believe. Because we felt the need to strengthen the home front, the chief of staff did not hesitate to reinforce the emergency alignment. It seems to me that we are now adequately prepared." He concludes by saying that "Israel's economy will be minimally affected, since the mobilization involves only a few thousand reservists."

Shay notes that people need not take their gas masks when they leave their homes or open them. "If new orders are necessary we will alert the public through the media, as soon as possible."

Asked to assess the timing of a U.S. attack, the IDF spokesman says "the Americans will use all their resources," some of which are most effective at night. "I believe the U.S. strike on Iraq will be most fierce, because never before have so many aircraft been concentrated in one area and with such strength, all of them aimed at the Iraqis. I would not like to be around that area today," Shay concludes.

Army Official on IDF, Home Front Preparations

TA1501165291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1535 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Report by military correspondent Amir Fink]

[Text] In a briefing held a short while ago, a military figure said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is taking into account three possible scenarios. It is possible that none of them will materialize, but the IDF's working assumption is that they are plausible, and the Army and the rear are prepared for them. However, the current intelligence assessment is that the odds are small that Israel will be attacked.

The first scenario: Missiles will be fired at Israel by Iraq and/or aircraft launched to bomb Israeli targets. In either case, Iraq has a limited capability.

The second scenario: Iraq will create a provocation by sending troops—which can range from a number of soldiers to a massive deployment—into Jordan. Such a move will make self-restraint difficult for Israel.

The third scenario, according to the military figure: Provocation by Iraq will draw Israel into a war on the eastern front.

The military figure stated that Israel has made preparations for a situation in which it may be required to shift emphases in preparing the home front and some of the reserve soldiers. To achieve this high level of preparedness, the IDF has been taking action for several months.

The number of IDF aircraft has been considerably increased, and there are currently almost no planes in maintenance. New warfare means have been introduced, including the Apache, engines, and spare parts. The numerical ratio between aircraft and pilots is very good. The operational precept was also altered to allow for scenarios in which distant targets in Iraq have to be accounted for and which require the Air Force to employ changed battle techniques. The antiaircraft system is also fully deployed. The readiness is on the basis of a very brief alert period: All the forces can scramble within a very short time, day or night.

Infantry troops have been trained; armored fighting vehicles have been retrieved from maintenance units; the manufacturing of various items was stepped up.

Concerning missiles, the military figure said tonight that there is a possibility of a short warning or none at all. If a missile with a chemical warhead is launched, it will do little damage if the population is properly protected. In the event of a conventional missile, the damage will be relatively small.

The home front, the military figure said, is ready. The Army has called up detection and identification squads, which are equipped with various means for the detection of different gases. In addition, the Army has formed medical rescue units spread throughout the country.

Political and IDF echelons are currently examining two possibilities. The first is that all schools and kindergartens will be closed, in which case some of the parents will stay home, too. In this eventuality, the population will not be prohibited from leaving the houses. The other, more extreme possibility, is a declaration of a state of civil defense, under which everyone will be ordered to stay home, with the exception of 200,000 to 250,000 essential personnel, who will continue working. All public services will continue to function. It should be stressed that no decision has been made on either of these two options.

The military element assessed that, in the event of war, the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza population will be divided into two factions: the silent majority and a small part that will attempt to carry out attacks. The IDF is prepared for every possibility, including one in which the standing army, or some of it, will have to leave the territories and carry out other tasks.

Situational assessments are made by the IDF several times every day. At this point, it is impossible to estimate when—if at all—studies will be stopped or a state of civil defense declared.

In reply to a question, the military element said that technically, identification systems between various aircraft can be modified within a few minutes.

Another topic about which the military figure was asked was the killings. He said that when Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was eliminated, his responsibility was divided between Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl ['Abd-al-Hamid]. Last night, there was a meeting at Abu-al-Hawl's home, during which he and his deputy were assassinated. The murderer is presumed to be affiliated with the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] faction, who later returned to Fatah. To sum up, he said, the assassination appears to have been motivated by account-settling in a small internal circle.

IDF Prepared for 'Any Scenario' in Gulf Region

TA1501130891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, reported today to the Knesset Foreign and Defense Committee that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is prepared for any scenario that might develop in the region. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the chief of staff pointed out that the home front is on a high alert and that the distribution of gas masks in the rural sector will also be completed by tomorrow.

Gen. Shomron said that the IDF, in recent months, has introduced new systems and weapons that had been planned anyway but that their implementation was brought forward because of the situation. He reported that the antiaircraft lineup, among other things, was upgraded.

Foreign Ministry Outlines Emergency Measures

TA1501134491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The senior political echelons in Jerusalem are holding discussions and meetings around the clock in various forums. The purpose of these meetings is to monitor developments in the Gulf, as they pertain to Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is holding consultations today in his office. All routine business was cleared off his agenda. All other senior ministers have also cleared their agendas.

The Foreign Ministry has declared an emergency deployment. Foreign Minister David Levi gathered senior members of his staff today and ordered them to start working according to an emergency situation framework. The new deployment will facilitate expeditious contact with the various governments and legations throughout the world. This was reported today by Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosef 'Amihud.

The situation room is manned 24 hours a day, and is administered by members of the senior management. The communications network will permit continuous contact and updating at all political or security levels, in real time.

A special situation room was set up in the Israeli Embassy in Washington. The room will be in continuous contact with the White House, the State Department, and the Pentagon. Special security preparations have been effected in the various Israeli legations throughout the world. All leave has been canceled at Israeli Embassies, and the ambassadors have been instructed to remain in close contact with the Foreign Ministry at all hours of the day.

Two communication centers have been set up in the Hilton Hotels in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The centers are meant

to supply communication services to approximately 1,500 foreign correspondents. Political and military briefings will be given there. The centers are equipped with telephone and facsimile lines, satellite systems, studios, and editing rooms. Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was put in charge of setting up and operating the communication centers. The foreign correspondents are mainly concentrated in Jerusalem because of their fear of an Iraqi attack on Tel Aviv.

Rejection of French Peace Initiative Detailed

TA1501180291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Israel is opposing the French initiative and believes that it breaks the international solidarity against Iraq. This was the reaction of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem to the French proposal for a UN Security Council resolution. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

The French ambassador in Israel this morning delivered the details of the five-clause French initiative to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. The Israeli reply was not delayed. This afternoon the Foreign Ministry sent the French Embassy a four-clause reaction that leaves no room for doubt about Israel's vehement opposition to the French move. Israel says:

A. Israel objects to any initiative that breaks the international solidarity in the face of the Iraqi aggression.

B. Israel opposes any linkage, direct or implied, between the occupation of Kuwait and the Israeli-Arab conflict.

C. Israel still hopes that Iraq will respond to the international community's demand and evacuate Kuwait through peaceful means, thus avoiding any threat of military conflict.

D. Peace between Israel and its neighbors will be obtained only through direct negotiations, Jerusalem stipulates, and reiterates its opposition to an international conference.

The UN Security Council is another front where Israel and the United States stand together against a line of countries that support the French initiative. [passage omitted]

Arens on French Initiative, Retaliation Plans

TA1501195491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in the studio on 15 January—video recorded]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Good evening, Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Shlonsky] A new French initiative is being thrown about at the Security Council tonight. What is Israel's stand on the new French initiative on the Gulf?

[Arens] This initiative may be new for the Security Council, but it is not new for the French. We oppose it because it links the Gulf crisis with the Israeli-Arab conflict.

[Shlonsky] But it could perhaps avert war.

[Arens] I do not think it can avert war, and I do think it goes against our interests and is certainly opposed to President Bush's policy.

[Shlonsky] Only 12 hours remain before the Security Council's ultimatum to Iraq expires. Are we now closer to war? Is this an eve-of-war situation? Or are we perhaps in the midst of war?

[Arens] No, we are not in the midst of war. As you can see, no bombs are dropping here or elsewhere. I think that if Saddam Husayn does not use the upcoming hours to agree to concessions in accordance with the terms offered by President Bush, the Americans will resort to force.

[Shlonsky] Does the United States inform Israel on when and how it is supposed to attack the Iraqis? What about the operational cooperation between Israel and the United States?

[Arens] I am sure you will understand if I decline to reply to this question in detail; I will say, however, that we are in touch.

[Shlonsky] After the visit of the U.S. delegation to Israel, does Israel still insist that it will react to an Iraqi attack with full force?

[Arens] We have not changed our stand, which I believe enjoys a considerable amount of understanding in the United States, too.

[Shlonsky] Can you specify what will happen if missiles drop here, or if Iraqi planes reach Israel?

[Arens] If they attack us, we will retaliate. Again, I would not like to go into detail on how we would do it, but we will certainly react.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Minister, the public is very worried. Did the authorities resolve, after tonight's consultation, not to change the state of the emergency situation? I mean, will children go to school and adults to work tomorrow, unless notified otherwise?

[Arens] At this stage, we have changed nothing. This is a situation which has to be followed very closely, almost hourly. Tomorrow morning we will hold another consultation regarding schools.

[Shlonsky] Is there any change in the Gulf of which we have been apprised and which changes the picture?

[Arens] At the moment, the situation is static, and it is not very different from the situation that prevailed yesterday, the day before yesterday, a week ago, and even two weeks ago.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Arens, Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl ['Abd-al-Hamid], two senior PLO leaders, were assassinated in Tunis this morning. Is Israel involved in these assassinations?

[Arens] Israel was not involved at all. I understand the assassin, who belongs to Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] organization, has been apprehended. I think it could be surmised that the deed was carried out by one of the PLO factions.

[Shlonsky] Thank you very much.

Prime Minister's Aide on PLO, French Initiative

TA1501163491 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, in Jerusalem by Dan Shilon in the studio in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Mr. Ben-Aharon, good evening.

[Ben-Aharon] Good evening.

[Shilon] Before we talk about the Gulf, I would like to tie the Gulf to what took place in Tunis last night. PLO leaders, the Palestinian leaders have accused Israel of being connected with that murder. Do you have an official reaction of the Israeli Government to this allegation?

[Ben-Aharon] It is naturally baseless, but it is the custom: When an Arab kills another Arab, the State of Israel is always to blame. We have been living with that for the past 40 years. Those who live by murder eventually die by murder.

[Shilon] Some would claim that in doing that Israel was interested in lighting the fuse of war and preventing a political initiative.

[Ben-Aharon] The leaders of our state have stated on more than one occasion that we do not want to be involved in the Gulf crisis, that we will not even make any preemptive move or a preemptive strike.

[Shilon] If so, Mr. Ben-Aharon, let us now turn to the French political initiative that seems to have gained momentum in the past few hours, although there are not too many hours left until the ultimatum to Iraq ends. How do we view this initiative?

[Ben-Aharon] This is a French initiative. It seems to me that there are several facts here that speak for themselves concerning the French role. If, God forbid, a war breaks out, U.S. troops will be killed by French-made weapons in the hands of the Iraqi Army. Iraq owes France some $7 billion for weapons and other equipment. And, the last point, Yasir 'Arafat was on his way to France when he heard that his deputy and some other person were murdered in Tunisia. These are the facts, and that is why France has a particular interest—which is French only—in trying to prevent this war. I believe that it is isolated in this. The fact that the USSR joined the initiative does not mean that there is a broad front for it, as Paris would like to claim.

[Shilon] Perhaps not a broad front, but we hear that the USSR and perhaps Belgium and other European countries, too, support it. The question is how would Israel react if, eventually, at the very last moment, this or that country—perhaps even the United States—came and told us: Gentlemen, all we are asking of you is to agree, at least tacitly, to an international conference. This could lead to a pro or con decision, the result of which could be thousands of fatalities.

[Ben-Aharon] First of all, I would say that we should deal with our problems one at a time. We have elaborated at length about the international conference many times in the past. Israel is not the victim one places on the operating table of the international conference so that others can do what their hearts desire. I do not believe, however, that we have reached this stage yet, and we had better not worry ourselves and the public with a scenario in which the whole disaster could be prevented by an Israeli contribution. I think that we are facing a difficult war of nerves, in the center of which some place the State of Israel because the Arabs, led by Saddam Husayn, want it that way. We must keep a cool mind, maintain our self confidence, be relaxed and prepared for any surprise. I believe that, thank God, this is the situation in Israel at the moment.

[Shilon] As one who says that this war, if it breaks out, is not ours, could you say tonight that the chances of obtaining a political solution have been exhausted?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not think so. I would not say that they have been exhausted, because it is very probable that Saddam Husayn—who acts the way a proud Arab would, a way we are familiar with—will first want to show that, if I may use this term, he does not give a damn about the ultimatum the UN and international community set. Nevertheless, he might wait one day and than perhaps look for a solution that would allow him to declare a victory, and try to wear out the coalition facing him. This is in line with an Arab attitude we are familiar with.

[Shilon] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, thank you very much.

Syrian Reserve Call-Up Deemed 'Limited'

TA1601103591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] There is no news from the Gulf; everything is quiet for the time being. Syria is, however, calling up thousands of military reservists as a precautionary step in case of a military conflagration in the region in which Israel would be involved, REUTERS quotes Syrian sources as saying. The report said that the great majority of the reservists belong to

the Syrian Air Defenses and that Syria has upgraded the level of preparedness of its forces stationed close to the borders with Israel and Jordan.

Syria recently warned Israel not to become involved in a Gulf war and promised to defend any Arab country attacked by Israel. In the meantime, the forces in the Gulf have begun to jam Iraqi shortwave radio transmissions. Iraq broadcasts incitement on those frequencies against the coalition in the Gulf and against the regimes of the Arab states that support it, especially Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Military sources told our Army affairs correspondent that reports about a call-up of the Syrian reserves and the beefing up of their forces in the Golan Heights should be treated with utmost reserve. They said that even according to the Syrian reports themselves it involves a very limited call-up, mainly anti-aircraft forces, which cannot significantly change the situation along the borders.

Israeli-Syrian Border Area Found Free of Weapons

TA1501130391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] In a briefing to Jewish settlement leaders on the Golan Heights, a senior Army commander said that there are no signs indicating any heating up of the Syrian border. The senior officer, however, stressed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is prepared for any eventuality.

The UN Disengagement Observation Force Headquarters in the Golan Heights told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that a routine investigation conducted by UN officers did not find that either Israel or Syria has violated the agreement banning the introduction of weapons into the strip along the border.

'General' Curfew Imposed on Entire Gaza Strip

TA1601063791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] A general curfew was imposed early this morning on the entire Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew was enforced to preempt riots. Three inhabitants of the territories were killed in yesterday's riots.

Hospitals Complete Preparations for Emergency

TA1601092991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Hospitals throughout the country are currently evacuating about one-fifth of those hospitalized, especially minor cases. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that the hospitals are now completing their preparations for the state of emergency.

Schools Close; Workplaces To Remain Open

TA1601042391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0330 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Report by education affairs correspondent Nava Kohen]

[Text] As of this morning, classes are canceled in all schools and kindergartens, including educational institutions in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. For the time being, it is being announced that classes will resume on Sunday [20 January]. The decision was made tonight with the approval of the defense minister, the education minister, and the chief of staff. Elementary schools, high schools, kindergartens, and special education schools will all be closed. Boarding school students will be sent home this morning in special transportation organized by the Education Ministry. Yitzha Rat, the Education Ministry's spokesman, notes that schools in Hebrew ulpans, universities, and teachers' colleges will continue as usual. It was also announced that work in all other places will proceed normally.

The Education Ministry recommends that the students remain at home or near home. The ministry's emergency center—the situation room—will continue to operate throughout the day, in Jerusalem as well as in the other districts, and will be at the disposal of the teachers and parents. Education Minister Zvulun Hammer made it clear that the decision to stop classes was not made on the basis of particular information that the Iraqis will attack Israel, but out of concern for the students and consideration for parents' fears. According to Hammer, this is a mere precaution. A check made by the Education Ministry yesterday indicates that about half of the students said that in any case they would not come to school today. The education minister calls on the students not to roam around the streets, but to remain at home, watch television, read, and study according to instructions they received from their teachers ahead of time.

Various Incidents in Territories Reported

Disturbances Over PLO Murders Noted

TA1501130091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] There were disturbances today throughout the territories after the announcement of the assassination of PLO leaders in Tunis. In the Gaza Strip, demonstrators erected roadblocks and clashed with soldiers. A number of demonstrators were injured.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 15 January adds that "13 local Arabs were wounded during the dispersal of disturbances in the Gaza Strip today. In Rafah, two firebombs were hurled at an Army patrol, but there were neither casualties nor damage." A general strike was called in the territories over the assassinations.]

Processions were held this morning throughout the territories. Black flags were waved, and the Army imposed a curfew in many regions of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

The former head of the Attorneys' Union in the Gaza Strip, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, said the death of Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] would only increase tension in the region. The heads of Arab Councils Committee condemned the killing, saying it would not further peace.

More Injuries Reported 15 Jan

TA1601011091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2200 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Three died in the course of incidents in the territories today: two in Judaea and Samaria and one in the Gaza Strip. The background for the disturbances was the murder of the three PLO officials in Tunis and the situation in the Gulf. The circumstances of the death of one of the three are still being investigated. [passage omitted]

There were several incidents and confrontations between local residents and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in the territories today. Several wounded were reported, including a person critically wounded in the Hebron area. About 30 people were reported wounded in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

A senior military source said that, on the whole, reaction in the territories was limited, unlike the reaction following the murder of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] about three years ago. At the same time, military elements assess that the general strike declared in the territories today helped limit the number of violent incidents. The security forces are preparing to prevent additional disturbances, and the curfew clamped today on towns and refugee camps in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will remain in force tomorrow. [Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 2200 GMT on 15 January adds: "An IDF officer was slightly wounded by stones in Gaza and was taken to the hospital. At 1900 a No. 1 bus was stoned near Dung Gate in East Jerusalem. One of the passengers was slightly injured, and one of the windshields was smashed. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharono adds that a military truck was stoned in al-'Ayzariyah east of Jerusalem tonight. The security forces fired rubber bullets at the stone throwers."]

One Killed, Other Incidents 14 Jan

TA1501145491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jan 91 p 12

[Report by Jon Immanuel and ITIM]

[Text] A 12-year-old boy was shot dead by troops in Ramallah yesterday morning during a demonstration.

Leaflets were distributed across parts of the West Bank by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's [PFLP] local affiliate and the Democratic Front, calling on Palestinians to side with Iraq if war breaks out.

The PFLP leaflet warned that any war would be another Vietnam, and accused the U.S. of frustrating efforts to settle the Gulf crisis in an all-Arab framework.

According to military sources, the 12-year-old boy was shot in the chest during a clash between troops and demonstrators. He was not immediately identified by Palestinian sources.

In Mazra'ah al-Qibliya, northeast of Ramallah, stones were thrown and soldiers fired, wounding a youth in the leg. This incident was followed by a protest of many villagers, during which two others were shot; they were reported in fair condition.

In Janin refugee camp, a resident was shot and wounded by troops who responded to stone-throwers.

Palestinian sources reported five wounded in Mazra'ah and three wounded in Janin.

In Rafah in the Gaza Strip, local sources said six were wounded in disturbances that broke out after the Iraqi parliament announced full support for Saddam Husayn's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait.

Women's groups in the Strip staged a sit-down strike outside the Red Cross offices in Gaza, protesting war and calling on Israel to release administrative detainees. There was no way of protecting the prisoners in the event of war; especially those who are in tents and open camps, such as Qezi'ot detention camp in the Negev, they said.

President Herzog Hospitalized in Cardiac Ward

TA1501152391 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Jan 91 p 16

[Report by Dvora Namir]

[Text] President Hayim Herzog was hospitalized yesterday in the cardiac ward of Sheba Medical Center as a result of a continuing bronchial infection.

The president has been suffering from an annoying cough, which has lasted for several months. Recently, he has suffered from shortness of breath.

The president receives updated reports on political and security matters.

King Husayn Addresses Nation on Crisis 15 Jan

NC1501201991 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Address to the Jordanian people by King Husayn in Amman on 15 January—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Brother citizens, children of my one steadfast family. I send you my love and appreciation and stand beside you at this crucial time in the history of our country and homeland and in the march of our people and nation, as our minds and hearts are united in the great hope that our region and the world can withstand what is about to befall them, when the doors have been closed to reason and the windows shut to friendly dialogue and when the specter of war hangs over our Arab citizen and the whole human family.

War is the worst option a party in a given dispute can choose. The full horror of war will be fully understood not just when we know that it is the antithesis of peace and stability, but when we imagine it on this land which is rich in oil—the blood of life and progress—and envisage the size and nature of the weapons that would be deployed. The war will not only kill men, entrench rancor, and substitute hatred for love, but it will also cause appalling damage to the environment and leave in its wake negative consequences that will haunt both our future and that of all mankind. It will be a war against the land and against whatever and whoever walks on it.

Brother citizens, for many decades our Arab homeland has been denied what other countries have enjoyed in the way of security and peace. For many decades, our country has yearned for and worked to achieve the same free and dignified life and profound and comprehensive security and peace as others enjoy. Today our nation is on the brink of an abyss, after the Gulf crisis has turned into a looming catastrophe.

Despite the horrors of the situation and the pains that grips our heart because of the point matters have reached, our conscience is clear because we exerted our utmost efforts to reach a political settlement to the Gulf crisis and because we acted, from the first moments of the crisis, in accordance with our convictions based on our deep affiliation and loyalty to the nation. In addition, we followed our course and never deviated from it in directing our efforts toward good and amity among our Arab peoples. We left no stone unturned and no road unexplored that would allow our single Arab family to address and solve the Gulf crisis within the Arab fold. We remained loyal to our convictions and our call, working relentlessly and without succumbing to despair or isolating ourselves, because the alternative to an Arab solution was the internationalization of the crisis, which would further complicate it and lead to war the drums of which are now being beaten. This war forebodes the most ruinous disasters and catastrophes.

I am eager to speak to you today in the deep realization that our country's location and stand has kept it and our people in the midst of successive crises that only enhanced the steadfastness of its position and emphasized the firmness of its stand. We have been helped by our concern to confront any enemy and anyone lying in wait for us. Our national unity has remained solid before all storms and we have remained, supported by God Almighty and by the awareness of our single and steadfast family, a proud and lofty homeland, a glorious arena of sacrifice, and a proud bastion for which we did not spare our dearest and most precious lives, blood, and manliness to defend and safeguard.

As I look with you to the triumph of reason over madness, love over hate, and desire for security, justice, and peace over the hysteria of war and oppression, I pray to God that these difficult moments in our and the world's march will be the last moments of pain and suffering. I pray that the doors of evil will be closed and the gates of good will be opened, and that the horror threatening mankind, the environment, and love among people will be surrounded by the hopes of all fathers, mothers, and children, who would be the cannon fodder in the devastating war which is about to erupt and from which no one will emerge the victor. Real victories are the ones that enhance life for man, not those that are built on destroying man or on his ashes.

Our country and region have never been through a period more delicate or more difficult than this phase, which our people are approaching in a climate of a true and young democracy. In spite of this delicate and difficult phase and its attendant emotions, all segments of our population have acted with a sense of responsibility and awareness that makes every member of the united Jordanian family justly proud of this march and the success of this experiment, since it is inconceivable that democracy in any country could pass a more rigorous test. Our country has passed its test with flying colors, and we are entitled to claim that we are a people who have demonstrated that they possess sufficient maturity and ability to shoulder responsibilities. We are also entitled to ask and expect everyone to keep this experiment pure and unblemished, regardless of the circumstances, so that it may be an example for our Arab region. As I address you today, when we could not be more proud of what we have achieved by dint of our hard work, toil, and suffering, let me assure you that our people will have in these circumstances another opportunity to demonstrate their noblity and high moral fiber.

Some of our guests have chosen to stay with us. They will be sharing our hopes for peace and our rejection of war, our lives, and our concerns. They will find in our country a secure home where, at this crucial phase, and out of faithfulness, they deserve to remain. As ever, they will continue to receive our attention and care and love, since with them we will widen the circle of friends and narrow the cirle of enemies. Let us be friendly and welcoming to our guests as we look forward to a more secure and more

peaceable tomorrow, imbued with deeper love, brotherhood, and contacts with our human family.

Brother citizens, the most beautiful hopes are born during moments of despair, and the greatest optimism is born during the darkest moments of pessimism. We will continue to keep our hopes and optimism alive. It does not require a miracle to avoid war, since humans are supposed to let themselves by swayed by their brains rather than their guns. And yet, in these moments, I cannot overstate the fact that in this Arab country we will adhere to our genuine faith and sure firmness and our abiding readiness to sacrifice. It is in difficlut times that peoples are tested. In this part of our big homeland, we are going through a continuing test, since we are living in continuing difficult times.

We will bow our heads to no one but God, no heart or arm will tremble, and we will face our destiny as we know oursleves and as our nation knows us. We will remain one family, too solid to be infiltrated, stubborn in confrontation, and we will resist and fight ferociously if fighting is imposed on us. The banner will continue to flutter high, the homeland will be safeguarded, and land and honor will not be humiliated or harmed, that God might accomplish a matter already enacted. [Koranic verse]

We are now in the highest state of preparedness for any emergency. Your Arab army is standing in its front trench, proud of what it gave in the past and of its vows, and reassured that it has behind it the army personnel and all the security forces, who are vigilant for their unity, solidity, and position. This is an accomplishment that is a source of pride, with the homeland being a trench for this deep cohesion of ranks and the vanguard for the entire nation in its march toward freedom, unity, and progress. I address my deep pride and sincere greetings to the men of our armed forces in the trenches of manliness and honor and in the positions of pride and sacrifice, because in these trenches and positions, they safeguard the homeland and the sovereignty of the country, and protect the land and honor with hearts full of faith and deep feelings of affiliation. They are the chivalrous men of the homeland whom they defend and the knights to which they belong. They have pledged to God, resolved, and vowed to bear any difficulty for their loyality and pure affiliation, protecting the homeland and skies and preventing their country from being a passageway to anyone and in the direction of anyone. This is our homeland that is dear to our army and to our people. We are dutybound to give our homeland our lives so that it will continue to have its glory and life. O ye who believe! persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear God; that ye may prosper. [Koranic verse] May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

Minister Outlines Travel, Other Restrictions

JN1601124091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister and chairman of the Supreme Social Defense Council, has issued an order banning state employees—with the exception of official delegations—doctors, pharmacists, male and female nurses, bakery and gas station workers from leaving the country without prior permission from the Interior Ministry.

In another development, Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah has authorized heads of Civil Defense committees in the governorates, and governors, to take any of the following measures when necessary:

—Take possession of trucks, transportation means, and passenger vehicles belonging to both the public and private sectors.

—Take possession of gas stations in the kingdom and organize sales in accordance with the public interest requirements.

—Organize the distribution of supplies that exist in wholesalers' stores, and to take the necessary measures in this regard.

King, Prime Minister Send Condolences to 'Arafat

NC1501231591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable of condolences to His Excellency Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat expressing his deep sorrow and pain over the martyrdom of three PLO leaders. The text follows:

We learned with deep sorrow and extreme pain of the bestial crime that resulted in the death of three of your most outstanding comrades in the Palestinian leadership. We send you, your brothers, and the Palestinian Arab people our heartfelt condolences. We pray to God to grant you patience and solace. We emphasize our strong condemnation of this cowardly crime and cheap act which will not undermine the Palestinian people's determination nor succeed in affecting their resolve to continue their legitimate struggle for their rights and sovereignty on their national soil. We come from God and unto him we return. Prime Minister Mudar Badran also sent a cable to Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat extending his condolences on the martdyrdom of PLO leaders Salah Khalaf [Abu-Iyad], Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid [Abu-al-Hawl], and Abu-Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari.

Foreign Minister Condemns PLO Killings

NC1501133491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan has officially condemned the assassination of three leading Fatah figures. A Fatah Central Committee member has accused the Israeli Mossad of carrying out these assassinations.

In a statement to our radio, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has denounced what he called a criminal

act against leading PLO figures. He said political assassinations are an unacceptable and condemnable method; it illustrates how far the Arab nation's enemies go in implementing their schemes. He said these assassinations are directed against the Palestinian people, their cause, and the entire Arab nation. He noted that the Palestinian people's struggle and intifadah will continue.

In a statement in Amman, Fatah Central Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki said the assassination of Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], and Abu-Muhammad Fakhri al-'Umari was planned and carried out by the Israeli Mossad. He said Mossad organs timed the assassination to take place on this critical day of Arab history in order to adversely affect the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, and to strike a blow at the intifadah.

Editorial: 'Iraq Will Not Be Alone' in Battle

JN1501130091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Jan 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "They Are Setting a Day for Our Slaughter, Which Will Be the Day of Our Birth"]

[Text] The United States has fixed this day, the 15th of January, to slaughter us. However, since the new colonialist-Zionist conspiracy against them has become clear, millions of the people of this nation have made their decision and expressed their determination to confront what is being hatched by Washington, and what it believes will be an easy thing, like what happened in Panama and Grenada. Iraq will not be alone in the battle. The Iraqis will not be alone.

This is the message of millions of Arab and Muslim peoples, from the Gulf to the ocean and from the farthest Islamic city to the farthest Islamic city. Not only will the land of Iraq, the Arabian Peninsula, Palestine, and Jordan be the fields of the great battle between faith and infidelity, tolerance and arrogance, or love and hatred, our holy war will spread to every corner. We will wage this battle in all fields of our homeland and in the homelands of our enemies. In confrontation of the decision to slaughter us, the desire to annihilate us, and the insistence to humiliate us, we will destroy the earth. Through our decision to die while standing, we will pursue all the killers, the fascists, and all those who are thirsty for our blood, flesh, and dignity.

Five decades ago, Hitler succeeded in leading the world to a catastrophe, whose traces still exist. And now, we see that in Washington, London, and in all the capitals of falsehood, polytheism, and rancor, dozens of fascists, who are just as bad as Hitler, have decided to slaughter us, set a date to slaughter us, and invited all people to witness our death. However, we announce loudly and clearly that they will lose, and that we will rub their faces in mud just as the Vietnamese rubbed America's face, the Yemenis the Britons' face, and the Lebanese and Palestinians the face of the alliance that invaded Lebanon and later escaped and was terrified after the decision of martyrdom that was made by the hero believers.

We will pursue you in every corner. If aggression starts against Iraq, it will release us from our shackles in all the Arab and Islamic cities. We will not spare one drop of oil, one fascist face, or one colonialist interest. It will be a war of an unlimited number of years. Baghdad is not a capital that raises the white flag, and the Iraqis are not like those who sold their honor, independence, and will, or betrayed their nation. Iraq now is the nation's proud forehead. It is the nation's pride, honor, and fire that will not be extinguished by all the enemies' fires, and whose hell will extend all over the pan-Arab arena.

Today is not the day of our slaughter as Washington, London, and the Zionist enemy imagine; it is the day of our new birth at the hands of God, under His banner, and in His name, for whose sake we will fight against the camp of infidelity, fascism, rancor, and ugly American Nazism.

Yemen's al-'Attas Meets With King Husayn

NC1401220891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening received Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the Gulf crisis and the need for a peaceful settlement. On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, and the foreign minister; and on the Yemeni side by Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister for domestic affairs; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister; and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

In a statement after the meeting, al-'Attas expressed his pleasure at meeting with his majesty the king. He noted that during their talks they reviewed the peaceful efforts to solve the Gulf crisis and the peaceful endeavors made by Jordan and Yemen toward this goal. He said that at the meeting with the Iraqi brothers during our visit to Iraq, we sensed that they want a peaceful and just solution to the region's issues with a unified and comprehensive view toward implementing the UN resolutions. Regarding the Yemeni initiative, he said that it falls within the framework of efforts and overtures proposed to solve this crisis peacefully.

Al-'Attas arrived in Amman this evening and was received by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and other officials.

Al-Asad Chairs NPF Session; Crisis Discussed

NC1501205891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] The Central Command of the Nationalist Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting chaired by President Hafiz al-Asad at 1630 today. The Central Command discussed the Gulf crisis created by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the dangerous situation resulting from Iraq's refusal to respond to the resolutions of Cairo's emergency Arab summit and the Security Council resolutions calling for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of legitimacy and sovereignty to this Arab country.

The Central Command lauded President Hafiz al-Asad's initiative of 12 January 1991 to spare Iraq and the Arab homeland the hazards of a destructive war when he addressed a message to the Iraqi president urging him to keep the opportunity from the enemies by withdrawing from Kuwait. The message also stressed that Syria will stand with all its material and moral capabilities on Iraq's side, should Iraq be subjected to an attack after it pulls out of Kuwait.

The Central Command expressed the view that the message, which was written in a spirit of pan-Arab responsibility and concern for fraternal Iraq, has outlined the beginning of a new climate away from serious dangers, in which the Arabs will constitute one rank and one power in the face of everyone threatening Arabs' land, interests, dignity, and destiny, to keep the opportunity from the Arab nation's enemies, especially Israel, to implement their conspiracies and goals.

The Central Command acquainted itself with the reply of the Iraqi president to the president's message of 13 January 1991. The command expressed deep sorrow and regret over the position he adopted toward the message. The command viewed this stand as negative, irresponsible, adventurous, and reckless about Iraq's national interests, the Arab nation's nationalist interests, and the interests of the peace in the region and the world, driving things toward a severe crisis and explosion.

The Central Command held the Iraqi leadership responsible for the grave consequences that might afflict the Iraqi people and Army, as well as the region, as a result of challenging Arab and international resolutions, ignoring Arab and international peace efforts, and bringing the situation to the brink of explosion.

The Central Command expressed its great appreciation for the efforts which Syria continues to put forth under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad for the sake of Iraqi people and Army and for the sake of the Arab nation. It also expressed full support for Syria's wise policy from the beginning in defense of the fraternal Arab values, charters, and relations, and in defense of the nation's pan-Arab cause.

Reservists Called Up as 'Precautionary Measure'

NC1601101791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Excerpt] In Damascus, the Syrian command has called up thousands of reservists as a precautionary measure in the event of an outbreak of war in the Gulf and possible Israeli intervention. According to REUTER, Syrian sources said that the reservists called up will serve in the Syrian Air Force. [passage omitted]

Saddam's 'Obduracy' Toward Peace Efforts Criticized

NC1501161991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The last few hours before the deadline set by the UN Security Council for Iraq to disgorge Kuwait have witnessed intensified diplomatic activity to minimize the chances of war and spare the region the horrors of a catastrophe. Much as these efforts are to be commended, the question arises: What good all are all these initiatives if the Iraqi leader spurns each and every peace overture and closes the door to all potential solutions? He has rejected all Arab efforts since his forces marched into Kuwait, thus opening wide the door for external intervention. Well-intentioned Arabs have spared no efforts, but the Iraqi president has gone out of his way to internationalize the crisis. He showed contempt for the Cairo summit resolutions and was impervious to European peace calls and efforts, thus opening the way for this massive military buildup in the Gulf. His intransigence has also led to the UN Security Council passing 12 resolutions condemning Iraq and its occupation of Kuwait and demanding an immediate and unconditional withdrawal. The last of these gave Iraq until 15 January to reinstate freedom and sovereignty in Kuwait and cleared the way for the use of force if Iraq fails to comply with the will of the international community.

In the spirit of genuine Arab traditions, the great leader Hafiz al-Asad has come up with an initiative to help our Iraqi people and the Iraqi president find a dignified way out of the crisis: Al-Asad appealed for a withdrawal from Kuwait—it being the duty of Iraq to protect rather than threaten Kuwait—and declared Syria's readiness to fight until victory wholeheartedly beside Iraq, should its rulers heed the call of reason, conscience, and supreme Arab interests. The leader President al-Asad's initiative has met with the approval of Arab masses across the Arab homeland and revived hopes for a breaktrough. One would have expected the Iraqi leadership to act responsibly and make the right decision that would spare Iraq the afflictions of war and thus bring back stability and tranquillity to the countries of the region, thereby pulling the rug from under apologists for foreign intervention. But the Iraqi president persisted in his obduracy, demonstrating a resolve to lead our Iraqi people to the slaughter and the Iraqi Army to a battle not remotely associated with Arab interests—a battle that should

advance the interests of the Zionist enemy and others who covet the resources of the region.

It is distressing for the people, leaders, and Army of Syria to see the chapters of a terrible tragedy unfolding. Syria's main concern is to save the Iraqi people from a diabolical scheme that is taking brotherly Iraq down the road of suicide and disaster. As far back as the days of Iraqi preparations to launch war against Iran, Syria was the only Arab state to have taken a determined stand against that irresponsible line. It made endless efforts to convince the rulers of Iraq to listen to the voice of reason and act in the spirit of Islamic values. Today the tragedy repeats itself with an unwanted war being thrust on the people of Iraq. If the Iraqi people were to have a say in the matter, they would come out against war and in favor of Kuwait regaining its freedom and sovereignty. They would condemn those who have opted out of Arab consensus and Arab tradition that abhors aggression by brother against brother. Needless to say, the responsibility for the potential disasters awaiting the people of Iraq and the states of the region must lie with the Iraqi Government. All Arab and other appeals to the Iraqi Government have fallen on deaf ears. The Iraqi Government insists on taking on the whole world. In the face of such sheer folly, well-intentioned Arabs cannot but make very effort to avert war in the hope that the conscience of the leaders of brotherly Iraq will wake up. Iraq is part of the Arab nation, and whatever befalls Iraq is bound to affect all Arabs.

Papers Say 'Iraqi Regime' in 'Dark Tunnel'

NC1601100191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] The editorials, commentaries, and political analyses in Damascus papers today focus on the Gulf crisis. The crisis entered a critical phase this morning with the expiration of the UN Security Council deadline for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait due to the Iraqi intransigent rejection of Arab and international will.

Under the headline "A Looming Catastrophe," the TISHRIN editorial says: The eleventh hour, during which the world held its breath, has passed as almost all hope is gone that the dark clouds of catastrophe looming over the area and suffocating the world may dissipate. Yes, the deadline is over, that deadline that was given to the Iraqi regime to rethink its position and find its conscience, to choose what is good, to opt to peace and national interest and renounce evil and aggression.

TISHRIN expresses regret that the Iraqi regime has turned its back and refused to listen to all noble pleas. The Iraqi regime, instead of complying with the will of international community, hardened its position. Instead of listening to the pan-Arab and brotherly appeal by President Hafiz al-Asad, who set aside past traumas for the sake of saving Iraq and the Arab people, the Iraqi regime was hostile and declared its resolve to maintain its occupation of Kuwait, no matter how much this may harm the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular.

Thus, TISHRIN says, the Iraqi regime has closed the door on the honorable exit that President al-Asad offered him. The Iraqi regime has begun walking down the dark tunnel that will lead invariably to death and destruction.

TISHRIN says: The responsibility of this historic situation lies completely with the Iraqi regime who has closed all doors to solution. However, in this grim atmosphere, we hope that some good reason will emerge from the heaps of garbage surrounding Baghdad. We hope that reason will prevail and that a conscience will return, so that they [the Iraqi leaders] will understand the gravity of the situation in which they placed themselves and take action to defuse the situation and pull out of Kuwait before it is too late. If Iraq leaves Kuwait, it will be saving itself and sparing the Arabs a catastrophe.

For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, today devotes two commentaries to a discussion of the expiration of the UN Security Council deadline for Iraq to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait or face a military challenge.

AL-THAWRAH writes: Today is the beginning of a new era in the region. Painful and bitter questions are on every lip; questions about the shape of war, its scale, and its immediate and long-term destructive and political consequences. [passage omitted]

In another commentary, entitled "The Task of the Iraqi People," AL-THAWRAH says: The Gulf crisis has entered a volatile phase following the expiration of the UN Security Council deadline for Iraqi peaceful withdrawal from Kuwait. All efforts and attempts to contain the crisis by political means have collapsed, went into a dark tunnel, and failed in restraining the arrogance of certain people who are full of arrogance and destructive madness. These efforts could have restored security, peace, and stability to the region. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Our steadfast people in Iraq, the downtrodden people who are being driven to suicide and guaranteed incineration in an absurd and unequal war are the only ones who can now defuse the situation by putting an end to the adventurers. Such is a national and pan-Arab task that requires immediate action before it is too late and before Iraq and its people are driven to the slaughterhouse.

India

Official Spokesman Answers Questions on Gulf

BK1601112391 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0923 GMT 16 Jan 91

["Official Spokesman's Statement on Gulf dated 15th Jan 91"]

[Text] Question: Why have some ten Indians been sent back by Jordanian authorities to Iraq?

Spokesman: The Jordanian authorities have taken a conscious decision not to allow transit unless the incoming passengers have firm arrangement for onward transit. This decision has been taken because of the financial constraints presently faced by that country. They have already spent several millions of dinars for assisting refugees. This is the reason why Indians were sent back. We are awaiting a fuller report from our ambassador.

Question: Have any arrangements been made to shift people who want to come out of the region?

Spokesman: We are making arrangements through the IOM [International Organization of Migration] and Air India to move out people. But as yet there is no major exodus and existing facilities have not been strained. All Indians who are now staying in the region have been advised long ago to leave if they wished to do so. In the last two weeks our HOMs [heads of missions] and mission officials have been in close touch with various organisations in this matter. Till yesterday there was no panic movement.

Question: Are the Indian embassies functioning full strength? What is the situation in Iraq?

Spokesman: All missions are working full strength except in Iraq in Baghdad, the mission staff have come down from 35 to 7 and mission is headed by a CDA [charge d' affaires]. In Basra there are no India based people.

Question: What is India doing in the face of this war-like situation?

Spokesman: "We believe in peace. We are leaving no stone unturned and no avenue unexplored to try and achieve a peaceful solution even though the outlook does and continue to look bleak. We will not hesitate to continue to exert all our energies towards achieving a peaceful solution. We are in touch with various countries through their ambassador both at Delhi and other capitals. Our PR [Permanent Representative at the United Nations] is in continuous touch with the permanent five and other UN Security Council members. We are not going to be deterred in our determination to avert, if not, totally avoid a war in the Gulf. We hope that the international community will also see the imperative need to prevent hostilities from breaking out."

To further questions, spokesman said that we have supported the UN secretary general effort so far and we will continue to support them. India is not toeing anyone's line except the line of peace.

To another question, spokesman said that there is no question about our unswerving support for the Palestinian cause.

When questioned about linkage of the Palestine and Kuwait issues on which the prime minister [PM] was commented yesterday, spokesman said that he was not commenting on the PM's statement, but was repeating what he ha.. said earlier, namely that "lack of progress on one intractable and difficult problem should not keep us back from progress on another intractable and difficult problem." The French initiative has not failed, the process is still continuing. It is important to note that major countries like France are still coming forward to take initiatives.

When questioned about a news report that several thousands of Indians are willing to fight on the Iraqi side and what the government is going to do about it, spokesman said "we will have to check on these reports."

When asked about the scheduled visit of Kuwaiti minister of state, spokesman said that the minister would not be visiting Delhi now and fresh dates are being worked out.

Citizens Reportedly Offering To Fight for Iraq

BK1601054491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0532 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 16 (AFP)—India's Foreign Office is checking a claim that some 200,000 Indians have offered to fight on behalf of Iraq in the Gulf, a foreign office spokesman said here.

Baghdad's chief diplomat in New Delhi Abdul Wadood made the statement to the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI), but the spokesman said late Tuesday there was no confirmation of the report.

The spokesman added that the report would be checked, but that there were rules banning Indian nationals abroad fighting on behalf of a foreign government without New Delhi's clearance.

Mr. Wadood reportedly said his mission has received thousands of letters from Indians offering to fight on behalf of Iraq and seeking visas to travel to Iraq.

India, a former ally of Baghdad, has no troops in the Gulf, but has condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and called on it to withdraw.

Iran

Diplomatic Ties With Jordan Resumed 14 Jan

LD1501102791 Tehran IRNA in English 0849 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Iran and Jordan on Monday resumed diplomatic ties, severed since January 1981, [the] Foreign Ministry announced here Tuesday.

"The governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, guided by their willingness to strengthen the cooperation and understanding amongst their people, have decided to resume diplomatic relations," said a joint communique released at the U.N. headquarters in New York yesterday by permanent representatives of the two countries to the U.N., Kamal Kharrazi and 'Abdallah Salah, respectively.

"Such relations will be based on the principles of the sovereign equality of nations, the mutual respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, the non-intervention in the internal affairs of others and peaceful coexistence," the communique added.

Last week Iran welcomed the recent statements of Jordan's Prime Minister Mudar Badran who expressed willingness to resume ties with Iran.

Also, the Jordanian foreign minister, in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart during the 45th U.N. General Assembly last September voiced interest in restoration of Tehran-Amman ties.

Similar proposals were made during visits to Tehran by several Jordanian parliamentary delegations in the past few months.

President, Mauritania's Didi Discuss Gulf

LD1501122291 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday described the current situation in the Persian Gulf as "distressing" and appealed to all Islamic countries to take steps to prevent the occurence of the long-expected catastrophe in the region.

The president further told the visiting Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hasni Ould Didi "In our view, Muslims and the region will suffer a great deal if a war breaks out."

"The Islamic Republic has so far made immense efforts to prevent outbreak of a war and presently, though not much time is left, we are in contact with places where we think are effective, so that we may be able to stop a war."

He added, "We will employ all our potentials to prevent the war, but if it (war) starts, we will do our best to minimize its destructive effects as much as possible."

The president said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is highly concerned about the threat posed by the presence of alien forces in the region" and added that the major threat is the large-scale presence of alien forces which have been dispatched to the region under the pretext of safeguarding security and undoubtedly with no good intentions.

During the meeting, the Mauritanian minister, who arrived here on a two-day official visit Monday, presented the Mauritanian president's message to President Rafsanjani.

RESALAT Report on 6 Nov Majles Session

WA1401185791 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Nov 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

In this session, after remarks by the representatives of Bakhtaran, Torbat-e Heydariyeh, and Sumeh Sara, the Majles session was called to order.

The following is the text of the pre-agenda speakers' remarks and the report of the plan and budget commission about the economic activities of the government during the first seven months of the current year.

Jalil Seyyedzadeh, the Representative of the People of Bakhtaran: The Art of It Is for Us To Strengthen the Islamic Revolution and Give Hope to Its Enthusiasts All Over the World

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's session of the Majles was Mr. Seyyedzadeh from the Bakhtaran constituency, who in his remarks stated: We are proud in this world that the spirit of the messages, the types of statements, the context of the guidance, and the decisive remarks of the leader of the cause of Muslims and the exalted leadership on various occasions, especially on God's Day, 4 November, have been the expression of and the reviver of the position of our late imam, that pious spiritualist and architect of the revolution and the founder of the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic. We offer our thanks to God for filling the hearts of every single member of the Iranian nation with hatred and detest for the arrogance. Cries of "Death to America" are on the lips of the young and the old of this nation.

On 4 November, the Muslim students, inspired by the position and guidance of our great imam, took over America's den of spies and, thus, the majesty of the great Satan was broken. It was disgraced and its news was broadcast everywhere. Yes, due to the ferocity of this revolutionary strike, another revolution took place. The lightning of the pure Mohammadan Islam propagated in all directions amidst the dense atmosphere of corruption and deviation.

Continuing, the speaker added: This movement glistened on that day and was recorded in the history of the

revolution as a thesis beyond which the approval and pleasure of the velayat [jurisconsult] was evident. While we glorify this great day and praise the martyrs among the students who, in order to prove their claim of following the leadership of the imam throughout the war, were present on the fronts of the struggle of light against darkness and finally drank from the goblet of martyrdom. We especially praise those who joined the Lord after the direct call by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for a frontal assault on America during 66 and 67 [21 March 1987-20 March 1989] in the Persian Gulf.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the need for planning and deepening the slogans and the revolutionary spirits of the world nations, who have their hopeful eyes on the Islamic Republic. He said: They would like to see how the Islamic Republic can succeed in reconstructing and practically implementing the revolution's goals, after a decade of resistance and revolutionary slogans, and also how it can lead the society out of doldrums by following the path of growth and expansion in moral, social, political, and economic areas.

Naturally, conditions have changed and methods will also change. This is the art of a revolutionary system—to move in the complex world by maintaining its restless aspirations and principles, such that it gains the most and suffers the least. Of course, the profit and loss may not necessarily be material. If we fail to gain the favor of the oppressed of the world, we shall suffer noticeable losses. The real art is that we strengthen the Islamic revolution and give hope to its enthusiasts. This cannot be realized except under the protection of moderation, solidarity, and depicting a logical, independent, and revolutionary move.

He then referred to conceit as an element of extremism and said: Extremism is the immoderate way of conduct which promotes hostility, the creation of adverse atmosphere, disregard for law, and exerting pressure. Extremism is precisely the use of law for the promotion of one's personal or organizational interests, which always results in the society's unruliness. Extremism is moving ahead of the shining models of the system and not following the policies and laws. It is a pretext for controversial discussions, hot slogans, and agitation of the people.

Time and again, it has been noted that by using extremist slogans, pointing out weak points, and displaying specific difficulties, certain objectives were being pursued and at times the executive manager was toppled.

In another part of his remarks, the representative of Bakhtaran pointed out: The struggle against America, defense of Islamic values, claiming to be on the side of the people and supporting the downtrodden are among the strategic objectives and principal slogans of the revolution. However, extremism is the use of these slogans and utilizing them, in practice or unawares, in a direction which is contrary to these slogans. If we believe in defending Islamic values and supporting the deprived—which we do—then certainly confiscation without the decree of a religious judge, a military move without the order of the commander, implementation of a political plan or expression of views abroad without coordination with the country's officials—even though it may be accompanied with the slogan "God is Great" and aimed at the struggle against America- -are against our strategic goals and slogans. This even applies to those who, until yesterday, may have been truly symbols of our struggle against America. Although extremism may possess useful repercussions, it will be dangerous in the long term and, inevitably, prepares the grounds for exploitation by foreign elements and spies. Also, it results in various effects and unrestrained reactions which will be, ultimately, detrimental to the nation and the interests of the revolution.

Continuing, the speaker added: Nowadays, the enemies of Islam are preparing themselves for long-term planning and collecting information about world events by forming strategic research associations and utilizing the most powerful cadre. They consider Islam and the selfless Basiji forces to be the most serious threat, they have recognized the unwavering determination of the leader and the nation, and they have found out about the energy and resources of Islamic teachings. Thus, they have utilized modern and more sophisticated machines and technology as well as huge amounts of money belonging to the capitalist world.

Nowadays, foundations such as Rockefeller, Carnegie, and Los Angeles are more alarmed. Radio and television networks, such as ABC [American Broadcasting Companies, Inc.] and CBS [Columbia Broadcasting System], and universities, such as Harvard, are fearful of Islamic ideology and have found no opening better than internal differences and exploitation of extremism. This is why our gracious imam said, "unity to the letter is the key to success" and remember that the exalted leader of the revolution said: "Masters of word, pen, and pulpits must note that the first detriment resulting from collective confrontations and squabbles is their distraction from paying attention to important world and regional issues."

Therefore, if we wish to export the revolution, to liberate sacred Jerusalem, and to obliterate Israel—which we indeed solicit- -and to seek the pleasure of the late imam, to value the pains of those who went to jail and were flagellated, to glorify the blood of martyrs, and to believe in decrees, Judgment Day, eternity, the scales of justice, and heaven and hell, there is no other way than absolute obedience to the flag-bearer of Islam, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The speaker then thanked the people of his constituency for their widespread participation in the Assembly of Experts' election. and added:

Thank God, after investigating all of the complaints and written and verbal objections as well as dispatching a delegation to the region, the correctness of the elections

was confirmed by the esteemed Council of Guardians. This shows the sincerity of the people and the thoroughness and correctness of those who ran the elections. Those who asserted that these elections will be certainly marred and used the excuse of nationalism, nationalist tendencies, and local issues because of using the name Kermanshah instead of Bakhtaran as proof of the invalidity of the elections, are deep at fault. Let this fact be known that most people, scholars, and notables, and even some of the valuable disabled veterans and dear ex-POWs in their daily conversations or for recording historic- geographic effects have—and still do—use the name Kermanshah. It has not occurred to any man or woman that the meaning of shah in the name Kermanshah is the despicable and filthy imperial line. Such a thought is far from the sacred minds of scholars, notables, and the Hezbollah nation, who with all their existence resisted the evils of war for eight years.

It is suitable that we look for the reasons of failure—despite all that tiresome work—in ourselves and in our friends. Was it not due to single-mindedness and undermining the people as well as the regional leaders? Wasn't the sacred Friday Prayer pulpit monopolized by a specific faction? Wasn't the honor and dignity of others damaged at various times and weren't steps taken to discredit them? Yes, it is by the measure of the people's votes that one can correct himself and the mistakes of the past can be mended by looking at it like a mirror and paying attention to its reflection.

In conclusion, the speaker ask the Council of Ministers to pay attention to to the problems of the western part of the country, especially Bakhtaran, such as employment, shortages and deprivations, ineffectiveness of economic plans, migration of the local work force to adjacent provinces—and to Tehran—and problems of bread and fuel.

Sahmi-Hesari, the Representative of the People of Torbat-e Heydariyeh: Is There Any Injustice or Aggression Not Perpetrated by America?

Mr. Sahmi-Hesari, the representative of the people of Torbat-e Heydariyeh, was the second pre-agenda speaker. In his remarks, he recited parts of the late imam's speech in connection with the Great Satan, America, and added:

When America heard about the yearning of the people of our country for Islam on 5 June and when, for the first time, the pride of America was broken and its might as a superpower was undermined, due to the fall and condemnation of its agents in Iran, and when America realized the strength and leadership of the clergy and Islamic scholars and the unwavering determination of the Iranian nation to gain freedom, independence, and the establishment of the regime of Islamic justice, it ordered its lowly, traitor, and undetermined servants, such as Mohammad Reza Khan [Pahlavi], to quell the Islam-seeking voices of the nation. All those who rose in confrontation to America had to be destroyed and we saw that these traitors did not waste a moment to fulfill their mission and, under the guise of freedom and leaving the gates open for the great civilization, made heaps of dead from the nation. They painted red the walls from Feyziyeh [Theological Center] to the universities, to the streets and bazaars, to the mosques and pulpits, with the blood of the God-seeking youth.

In another part of his speech, he said: Under the perception that the nationalists, the Hypocrites, and others in the camps of the Right and the Left will soon move the politics of the revolution to its advantage, for a short while America adopted the policy of fear and intimidation. It planned and implemented coup d'etats, it exerted pressure, it promoted characters who are connected to it, and it also assassinated those involved in the revolution and true revolutionaries. God graced us and on the scene of heroism and taking over the den of spies, the people of Iran declared their deliverance from America and its agents once again and the late imam said: "This revolution was more grand and above the first revolution."

Continuing, Mr. Sahmi-Hesari added: America gave Saddam, this intoxicated bully, the same blade that it had put in the hand of Mohammad Reza Khan. Now, let us see what did Saddam do. Didn't Saddam act in a different way to deliver Iran to America?! The experience of the Islamic revolution in Iran has been gained as a result of the blood of thousands of martyrs and wounded, the destruction of homes, the burning of agricultural harvests, the killing and imprisonment of many children of the revolution and Islam at the hands of Iraqi executioners, and...also, economic pressure, the sinking of the Iranian ship, the downing of the passenger plane and the martyrdom of 290 old, young, and toddlers, men and women, a military coup d'etat, the direct attack at Tabas, the economic air embargo, and thousands of other crimes. All these are born from the colonialism and savagery of America. Can there be any injustice and aggression without America's involvement?! The speaker then recounted America's crimes against the native Americans and the crimes of the Zionists against the Palestinian combatants.

Where are the human-rights advocates, those who for the slightest action against the usurp Israel convene the Security Council? Where are those who talk about human-rights and whose fake cries can be heard on behalf of the condemned Salman Rushdi? Where are those who boast about Arab solidarity? Where is the Palestinian leadership? However, today in support of Kuwait, we hear cries and we see military coordination and an economic embargo against Islamic countries. These are orchestrated with Saddam being the excuse, while so much turmoil has been caused.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Torbat-e Heydariyeh said: Instead of gathering in front of the Majles in opposition to well-known deputies, suggesting death and destruction for the students following the imam's line and conquerors of the den of spies, assaulting their honor and committing aggression against

them and instead of writing articles and attacking the Speaker of the Majles by calling him an accused, let us maintain our solidarity. Let us take an anti-American posture. Let us save Islam. Let us act according to the guidance of the great leader of the revolution. Let us be men of action.

Mohammad Taqi Ranjbar, the Representative of the People of Sumeh Sara: America Will Never Learn and We Must Prepare Ourselves for a Protracted Struggle Against This Criminal

The third and last pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Ranjbar, from the Sumeh Sara constituency.

He said: The demonstrations of the heroic people of Iran on God's Day, 4 November, the anniversary of conquering the den of spies, with the smashing slogan of "Death to America" has shaken the palaces of tyrants—especially the White House—and the world- encompassing message of the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran rejuvenated the noble body of the Hezbollah and the enamored of the Islamic revolution of Iran. It cleansed the glowing face of the imam's line, the imam's path, and the heart-broken and selfless children of the imam from the dark cloud resulting from political wrangling. It reminded us of the duties of the noble Iranian nation to protect the achievements of the revolution and the struggle against the Great Satan. It reminded all of the correct way to fight against America's deployment of troops in the Persian Gulf. It proved the continuation of the anti-arrogance movement of the Muslim people of Iran in solidarity and absolute unity in all levels of the society.

He added: Now, with a heart filled with affection for the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] and absolute obedience to the divine decrees of the commander-in-chief and the Muslim world's leader of the cause and the great leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, we are ready for any type of crusade to confront the Great Satan and its agents in the region. We shall spare no effort in the path of exaltation of the Islamic revolution of Iran and its sacred institutions, especially the esteemed Council of Guardians (the bulwark of the decrees of the glorious religion), the government and the Majles.

He added: The beloved and revolutionary Iranian nation knows well that the rush of the criminal America to the Persian Gulf and calling the multi-national force into the region is not for taking back and returning Kuwait to the al-Sabbah family. How can the one who leads the crimes of the usurper and blood-thirsty Zionists, encourages and aids them in spilling the sacred blood of women, children, and youth in the occupied land of Palestine feel sorry for Kuwait?

American policy is based on murder, crime, starting wars, spilling blood, aggression against the weak nations of the world, and plundering the world. It knows no language except the language of force, armed struggle, and treatment in kind. America will never learn and we must prepare ourselves for a protracted struggle against this criminal.

He added: The palace-dwellers of America have long planned for dominance over the warm waters of the Persian Gulf and the plunder of its resources. They always sought an excuse to implement their evil plan. This excuse was realized for America by Saddam Husayn's transgression against Kuwait. Now, American political players have caused such an uproar in the world by trickery and deceit and with the excuse of defending the reactionary regime of Saudi Arabia, protecting the Al Saud family, and returning Kuwait to the al-Sabbah family—motivated by preventing the export of the Islamic revolution of Iran among the Persian Gulf nations that crave for the pure Islam and love the Islamic revolution of Iran—they have kept the world public opinion, which, at a time, was focused on the relentless struggle of the deprived people of Palestine, preoccupied in order to save Israel from the hatred and despise of the world and to assist it in the continuation of its crimes.

In this connection, he said: America's veto of the United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel for the murder of Palestinian combatants is clear proof of this claim.

He emphasized: Today, the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not limited to condemning Saddam's transgression against Kuwait and America's deployment of its forces in the region. It also includes preventing war in the Persian Gulf region and expelling Americans from the vital and strategic Middle East region.

The heroic nation of Iran, its ear trained to the order of the leader, with full support of the government, Islamic combatants, and the Armed Forces are united and prepared to strike at American interests and, in confronting the aggressors, is ready to turn the blue waters of the Persian Gulf into an American cemetery.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the recent inspection of the earthquake-stricken areas of the country by Mr. Hashemi and said: This visit cleansed the faces of the mourning people of these regions from the dust of anguish and once again shined the rays of hope in the hearts of the deprived and downtrodden in the region, resulting from alleviation of their problems and difficulties concerning permanent housing and dispatch of aid.

Continuing, he thanked Mr. Hashemi and his entourage for this visit and said: Mr. Hashemi! At this time, what is essential for the people of Gilan is providing water for the cultivation of 250 thousand hectares of agricultural land in Gilan Province.

In conclusion, he recounted some of the problems and difficulties facing Gilan Province and requested that the officials take immediate action to investigate these problems. Report on the Government's Economic Operation

The only item on the agenda during yesterday's open session of the Majles was the bill to amend the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] national budget. While explaining the characteristics of the budget amendment, Mr. Eshaq Jahangiri, the vice chairman of planning and budget commission, said:

Amendments sent to the Majles during the past several years were mostly as a result of shortcomings in the working budget of organizations and non-collection of the government's income. Therefore, in these amendments, we were forced to add to the national borrowing ceiling in order to solve the government's problem. Now that we have before us the seven-month operation of the government for the 1369 budget year, our evaluation—as the budget commission—of the government's operation in regard to the budget is positive. The total income of the government during the past seven months have been Rls 2641.7 billion, which compared to the figure approved by the Majles on 4 October shows an increase of 10.6 percent.

This figure compared to the government income of the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] shows a 115 percent increase, compared to the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] a 136 percent increase, and compared to the income for the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] it shows a 81 percent increase.

He then referred to the collection of taxes and said: Taxes have amounted to Rls 898.6 billion, which compared to the statute of 4 October shows a decline. (The approved figure was Rls 1003 billion). However, collection of taxes compared to the year 1366 shows a 54 percent increase, compared to the year 1367 it shows a 58 percent increase, and compared to the year 1368 the rate of increase was 35 percent. Among taxes and direct taxes which are of special significance, Rls 517 billion have been earned, which shows that 87 percent of the approved figure has been collected. Also, it shows an increase of 53, 44, and 31 percent for the years 1366, 1367, and 1368, respectively.

Collection of indirect taxes amounted to Rls 381 billion, which is 92 percent of the approved figure. (The approved figure was Rls 412 billion.) Compared with the years 1366, 1367, and 1368, there was 53, 44, and 31 percent growth, respectively.

Mr. Jahangiri then pointed out the earned income from oil and gas and said: In this category, the earnings from oil amounted to Rls 561.9 billion, which was 89.4 percent of the estimated figure. Compared with the years 1366, 1367, and 1368, this figure showed a 18, 46, and 7 percent increase, respectively.

"Other Income" during the past seven months amounted to Rls 1181 billion, which showed a 56 percent increase compared to the figure approved on 4 October. It means that "Other Income" was stipulated on 4 October to be Rls 757 billion, while the government operation shows this to be Rls 1181 billion, which shows considerable growth compared with previous years. This growth compared with the years 1366, 1367, and 1368 amounted to 578, 603, and 346 percent, respectively.

The vice chairman of the plan and budget commission then pointed out the reduction in the borrowing ceiling and said: Borrowing from the Central Bank during the past seven months was Rls 7 and 5 billion [as published] which is 60 percent of the figure approved on 4 October. In the law, we had stipulated that the government may borrow Rls 839 billion from the banking system. However, the government has borrowed less than the authorized amount. This figure shows a reduction of 29, 52, and 39 percent compared with the years 1366, 1367, and 1368, respectively.

Continuing, he said: The government's total receivables during the past seven months, which includes earnings as well as the use of the banking system and returns [as published], amounts to Rls 3253.1 billion.

From the government's total receivables in the year 1369, 72.3 percent was the government's earnings and 27.7 percent was from the banking system. During the comparable period in the year 1368, 61.5 percent was from the government's earnings and 38.5 percent was from the banking system. And in the year 1367, when we were in the worst condition, 49 percent was from the government's earnings and 51 percent was borrowed from the banking system. It indicates that in the year 1367 the government's borrowing figure from the Central Bank was more than its earnings.

He then attempted to analyze the government's income figures and said: Oil income is among the figures that show a decline. Considering the recent increase in world oil prices, it may puzzle the deputies as to why it shows a decline in the higher ceiling? In connection to the foreign exchange budget, contrary to the rial budget, we have no reduction in income compared to the authorized figure. The reason for this is that, while the the 1369 budget debate was proceeding in the commission, we were under the assumption that the Rls-USD correlation on the average—based on recognized and practiced international guidelines and considering the expertise of our brothers in the Central Bank—is a rate of conversion of Rls 74.8 per USD and the current national earnings were calculated on this basis. However, the USD-Rls exchange rate, which is one of the most important figures, caused the oil income to show a decline. This stems from the fact that we consider the rate of exchange of USD to be 75 Rls, while the average rate of USD during the past seven months was actually 68 Rls. Another reason was the average USD value of each barrel of oil. Contrary to our assumptions, which an average of 17 USD per BBL was stipulated, during the first five month of the year we sold each barrel of oil at an average of 12 to 13 USD per barrel.

In the section of taxes which we have a reduction, there are two or three figures which show declines. The most important of which is the National Cooperative Tax

under the direct taxes. In any case, the National Cooperative Tax bill passed by the Majles and it was stipulated that a hefty sum be collected from individuals who have very high incomes in the country—called the National Cooperative Tax—and be spent on national reconstruction projects. The income from the Cooperative Tax during the seven months amounted to Rls 6 billion (which is 11 percent of the approved figure). The Cooperative Tax was the lowest figure among national earnings for which, as a rule, the brothers must offer an explanation since we had stipulated Rls 58 billion but only Rls 6 billion was collected.

Another figure that shows a decline among indirect taxes is the cigarette tax. The collected cigarette tax amounted to 60 percent of the approved figure and the estimate by the Majles was not realized. Based on the 4 October resolution, it was about Rls 92 billion of which Rls 56 billion has been collected. Among other income which we have had noticeable increase, just about all have been in the area of competitive foreign exchange. In any event, the earnings from the sale of foreign currency was a very large figure, which covered these four declined categories and caused a noticeable increase in the government's earnings compared to the 4 October figures.

He then referred to the government's payments during the past seven months and said: Total payments by the government have amounted to Rls 3253 billion, which is 98.4 percent of the 4 October figure. These payments show an increase of 42 and 37 percent compared with the years 1367 and 1368, respectively. From the current budget, Rls 2227 billion (95 percent of the stipulated figure) have been used and Rls 1025 billion of the reconstruction budget have been utilized (106 percent of the approved figure), which is a worthwhile performance of the government. In the past, every year when we faced a shortage of earnings, since current expenses could not be reduced, the government suffered much hardship. This mostly curtailed reconstruction activities. The figure allocated for the reconstruction budget during the past seven months is commendable because it is 6 percent more than what had been stipulated by the Majles. In the current budget for the year 1369, 67.5 percent is allocated for the national budget and 31.5 percent has been allocated for reconstruction budget. However, in the year 1368, the current budget was 75 percent and the reconstruction budget amounted to 24 percent, while in the year 1367 the current budget was 81 percent and the reconstruction budget was 13 percent.

Exports of oil, gas, and oil products in the first six months of the current year amounted to USD 6.4 billion. This figure is slightly lower than the adjusted projected income of USD 14 billion for the whole year. The export of services was USD 410 million and the total foreign exchange receivables of the government was USD 6.8 billion.

We have forecast about USD 18 billion for non-oil exports during the Five-Year Plan. From this, the amount stipulated for the year 1369 is USD 2.3 billion, which, unfortunately, have not been realized. Based on the figures presented by the Central Bank, for the first six months of the current year this figure is only USD 40 million. This figure in addition to the proceeds from the sale of foreign currency abroad amounts to about USD 400 million, which is much lower than the stipulated figure. We believe that the Majles must show more sensitivity concerning such issues. In this connection, foreign exchange payments in this six-month period was USD 12.5 billion.

Continuing, he explained the reasons for the high foreign exchange payments compared to earnings and said: In two or three sectors from the various chapters of the foreign exchange budget the total expenditures for the year 1369 adjusted for first six months have not been correct. One of these sectors is industry. The total allocation for industry during the year 1369 was USD 4 billion. However, only during the first six months it has received USD 4.2 billion.

The reason is obvious. If you want a factory to function and continue its industrial production throughout the year, during the first three months of the year, all its foreign exchange requirement must be paid out so that it can import the necessary raw materials and parts. Another is the trade sector, which—from a ceiling of USD 3.9 billion for the year—has used 3 billion in six months. The reason for this is also clear. Presently the prices of some goods, such as wheat, have had a sharp decline in the world. Obviously, as an importer of wheat, logic and wisdom dictate that we should import the amount we need for the year, and even import our requirements for the next year.

Another positive development in connection with the foreign exchange budget of this year is the authorization of the physical balance at the beginning of the year and that organizations know their standing.

In view of this brief report which I presented to the deputies concerning the operations during the past few months, the situation with the amendment to the budget is such that—since we consider the report about the operation to be generally positive—we had a positive approach toward the budget amendment and tried as much as possible to help solve the problems of organizations.

The present budget amendment concerns several major sectors. One is that, in the receivables section, we have corrected the foreign exchange income of the government. We increased the rial value of the selling price of foreign exchange and also the majority of increases which we have implemented in the expenditures section we have based in the receivables section on the sale of foreign currency. Therefore, the budget amendment is in the following shape: The principal figure of the budget amendment, which begins from Note One concerns the freed POWs—in the government's bill was stated to be Rls 50 billion. We approved the whole of the Rls 50

billion and have foreseen some facilities for these dear ones. He then referred to some other points in the budget amendment.

Then, several deputies spoke as opponents and proponents of the budget amendment bill and continuation of the discussion was postponed until the next session.

During yesterday's session, Mr. Sarhaddizadeh from Tehran constituency was sworn in. Also, the plan for membership of the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone was presented to the Majles bearing the signatures of 25 deputies.

Pakistan

Protests, Threats Against U.S. Sites, Citizens

BK1501134891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 15 (AFP)—The American Centre here was indefinitely closed as pro-Iraqi demonstrations Tuesday threatened strong retaliation against U.S. interests and citizens if Baghdad was attacked, witnesses and U.S. sources said.

More than 500 U.S. nationals have already left Pakistan since Washington advised its citizens to return home last week.

U.S. officials, consultants and those associated with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the northwestern city of Peshawar have abandoned the staunchly Islamic Pakistani city where anti-U.S. feelings were high, Western and U.S. sources said.

The city, decorated with large-size portraits of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, has been witnessing daily protest rallies since last week.

Threats were hurled at three separate pro-Saddam rallies, organised Tuesday by different political parties and university students in Peshawar, to torch U.S. buildings and chase out U.S. nationals if U.S. forces attacked Iraq, witnesses said.

Students boycotted schools and colleges in Peshawar while demonstrations expressing solidarity with Iraq also took place in the northwestern towns of Charsadda, Swabi and Mardan, reports said.

Sandbags were piled up in front of the U.S. consul's Karachi residence, while similar measures were taken to protect other U.S. installations in the city from any bomb blast or public disorder, press reports said.

In Islamabad, a peaceful demonstration was held several blocks away from the American centre in support of President Husayn by a newly formed journalists' forum for human rights.

Police blocked all approaches to the U.S. facility and the group dispersed peacefully after burning an effigy of U.S. President George Bush.

Some 200 youths were baton-charged by the police at the same spot Monday, as the UN-set deadline approached for a conflict in the Gulf should Iraq fail to withdraw from Kuwait.

Officials said 20 civilians and seven policemen were injured as the police blocked the crowd's march to the centre.

The facility was being guarded by police and paramilitary soldiers who told reporters that "nobody is allowed in."

The American centre was the scene of a bloody clash in February last year between police and predominantly Moslem youths, who were protesting against the British author Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses."

Seven people died when police opened fire on youths trying to pull down the U.S. flag.

U.S. flags and effigies of President Bush were burnt during rallies held Tuesday at a number of places in Karachi by different right- and left-wing parties and liberal activists.

The fourth successive day of rallies and demonstrations demanded the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Gulf and an Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories, the sources said.

JUP Chief On Raising Force To Fight For Iraq

BK1601105591 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Jan 91 p 12

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Karachi, Jan 13: Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani announced on Sunday that Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan [JUP] would raise a 25,000-strong Mujahidin force, comprising ex-servicemen, able-bodied and trained youths, who would take part in a Jihad, on the side of Iraq.

Addressing a Press conference here on his return from Baghdad where he attended a three-day 'World Muslim conference', he said that, if needed, the Mujahidin force would proceed to the Iraqi front via Iran, and hoped that the Pakistan Government would not raise any objection in this regard.

The JUP chief dubbed Pakistan's foreign policy vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis "un-Islamic and pro-US", and regretted that Pakistan, which took pride in being a fortress of Islam, had failed to bring about conciliation between the two brother Muslim States.

If Pakistan could become a bridge for Sino-American understanding through the Kissinger mission in 1970, why could it not play the same role in bringing about a settlement between Iraq and Kuwait? he asked. It was for the 46 member States of the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) or the Arab League to mediate in

the dispute, and not for the US to intervene by deploying a multi-national force in Saudi Arabia, he said.

Maulana Noorani criticised the dispatching of Pakistan troops to Saudi Arabia for the protection of Harmain Sharifain [the two holy places], wondering whether there were no holy places in Iraq as well.

Pakistan had thus become a party to the Iraq-Kuwait dispute, he added.

He said the Saudi authorities, a month ago, had levied "war tax" on those who visited the Kingdom for performing Umra [minor pilgrimage], and added that levying of tax for performing Haj or Umra was un-Islamic.

Maulana Noorani said scholars from 72 countries, except Saudi Arabia and UAE, had attended the Baghdad conference and unanimously declared that a Jihad would be waged if war erupted in the Gulf.

Alluding to internal situation, the Maulana criticised the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government for remaining undecided over the Shariat Bill, and said, despite solemn assurances that enforcement of Shariat was a top priority, the IJI Government "has relegated it (the bill) to the background."

He recalled that the Shariat Bill had been adopted by the Senate when Mr. Ghulam Islaq Khan was its chairman but, he said, the President had dissolved the National Assembly on Aug 6,1990, when two days later the Shariat Bill was to be introduced in the National Assembly.

Maulana Noorani demanded the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner after the "admission" of Mr. Chulam Musrafa Jatoi that Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and other front-ranking political leaders were made to lose the 1990 elections but that he (Jatoi) did not want to intervene in the Election Commission's affairs. In the byelections, espccially in the constituency of Nawabzada Nasrulla Khan, the same story of rigging and other malpractices had been repeated, he pointed out.

Commenting on Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali's assertion that law and order situation in the province had improved because the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] had joined the Government, the Maulana said: Jam Sahib should include others also, from the interior of the province, in the Cabinet, and peace would reign in Sindh."

JUP Vice-President Shah Faridul Haq intervened to say: "Let all dacoits be appointed ASIs [assistant sub-inspectors] and all would be quiet on the front."